

# THE CHURCH PLANTER

Fall A Newsletter of Church Planting International 2008

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## Four Summer Teams Proclaim Gospel, Aid Churches, Meet Needs



### Team 1: Tepic, Mexico, June 11-20

- This group included 27 people from the Zion Church of Millersville, Pennsylvania, and others from Ohio, Texas, and California.
- They held 4 evangelistic outreaches, ministered the Gospel to over 500 people, performed over 15 dramas and dances, gave over 20 testimonies, and distributed over 1,000 tracts and Gospels of John. A highlight came at an open air street meeting in an unreached town. The Holy Spirit brought conviction to many with an outpouring of prayer, joy, and love. Nobody wanted to leave! This town has only a small core group of believers who have persevered amid persecution. They are now constructing a meeting place.
- They put up a roof in an unreached Huichol Indian village so that people could have a place shielded from the sun to gather to hear the Word of God. CPI sponsors Pastor Martin Vargas who travels to the village once a month.
- They distributed food to the needy, held a medical clinic, and worked at an orphanage repairing roofs, painting, and ministering to children.

**From Pastor Steve Cote:** *“For Zion Church, our sixth annual mission trip to Tepic, Mexico, was both a unique venture and a familiar journey. We opened new avenues of ministry in the small town of Pantanal, working with its new and only evangelical church, and we traveled far and precariously through steep mountains to Cienega, an unfamiliar Huichol village, where we worked and witnessed with high energy... We saw the Lord move mightily and majestically through our offerings of drama, dance, testimony, children’s activities, prayer, and preaching. At Zion Church, these trips have become a culminating part of the fulfillment of our vision: Our Focus is on Jesus: Beholding His Glory, Building His Body, Blessing His World.” (Continued on page 3)*



**“GIVING YOUR CARES TO JESUS”  
ARTICLE ON PAGE 2**



# Giving Your Cares to Jesus



By Steven Shepard

**“Casting all your cares on Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).”** By walking in this truth we will enter into a life of childlike faith through which we will see God at work in our everyday lives.

To “cast” in the Greek means to throw with a sudden motion. Our cares include everything that concerns us or weighs us down. This includes concerns about our loved ones, our health, our finances, our work, our ministries, and even about our relationship with God. This verse tells us to cast every one of our cares upon the Lord. In so doing we entrust our lives to Him. Keeping our lives under our own care just leads to frustration and more anxiety.

We need to understand how inadequate we are to manage our own lives. Jesus said, “The flesh profits nothing” (John 6:63), and “For without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) As believers, our lives do not belong to us, but to the Lord. He will take care of His own. This does not mean that we are passive or unconcerned about our responsibilities. We are to be as diligent as we can in seeking to fulfill our responsibilities. Yet, we are not to be anxious about the outcome. This we must leave in the hands of the Lord, casting all of our cares upon Him.

But how can we do this? The final phrase of our text gives us the answer, “For He cares for you!” When we become convinced that He cares for us we will be enabled to cast our cares upon Him. But if we don’t believe that He cares, or we don’t understand how He cares, then we won’t cast our cares upon Him. We won’t trust Him with our lives. It is not enough to know that God cares for people in general. We must believe that He cares for us in particular as His beloved children. What does this mean?

To care is to have concern for another, causing you to look after their welfare and protect them from danger. Sometimes it is hard to believe that God really cares for us in this way. This is because our idea about our welfare is different from God’s and our definition of danger is also different. To God, suffering and even death is not the real danger. The real danger is in dying without Christ. There is nothing safer than to die and to be immediately and forever in the presence of God. God has promised to preserve all of His children; and He will protect them in this life until their work is done. As believers, many trials come our way; things we don’t like; things we don’t understand. Yet God has determined that everything that happens to us in this life will be used for our own good. “All

things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.” (Rom 8:28) Not just some things, but all things! And what is this “good” to which all things work? Romans 8:29 tells us, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son...” This is what we really need - to be like Him. We need to be more holy. This is what is in our truest best interest. And God has promised to make everything that happens to further this end. But we must trust the Lord. God knows better than us what we really need and He is all powerful to make it happen. Therefore His care for His children is perfect!

God’s care for His children is a committed caring. In our text the verb is in the present continuous tense. This means that God cares and keeps on caring continuously. Actually, if you are a believer God’s caring for you never had a beginning and will never have an end. He is unchangeably on your side. Even before you were born, God cared about you and planned for you to be with Him. Ephesians 1:4 says, “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him...” He then sent His only Son to die for you. After you were born He called you to Himself. After you came to Christ, He promised to preserve you in your faith. Philip 1:6 says, “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Is 54:10 says, “Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”

May we therefore give all our cares to the Lord because He cares for us! If we do, it will yield a rich reward. We will enter into peace and an inward rest from our strivings. As we rest from our own works, the Lord will perform His work in and through us. The Lord will fight for us just as He did for the people of Judah when they feared that a great multitude had come against them. The prophet said, “Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s.... You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you.” (2 Chron 20:15b,17a) As David also says in Psalms 55:22, “Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you.”

## Team 2: Tepic, Mexico, June 20-28

- This group included 23 people mainly from the Lakeshore Christian Fellowship of Tega Cay, South Carolina.
- Their main project was to put in a cement floor for the first church of an unreached Mexican town.
- They put in a cement floor for a preschool in a Huichol Indian village. (The government would not provide funds for this school which previously had only a dirt floor and stick walls.) They also put in a cement floor for a widow, 2 roofs for needy people, and did various projects in an orphanage.
- They conducted evangelistic outreaches, children's programs, provided food for the needy, and participated in 2 church services.



**From Jason Doescher, Youth Pastor at Lakeshore Christian Fellowship:** *“This past summer I was privileged with the opportunity to take a group of 19 people from our church to Tepic, Mexico, through CPI. While I was excited about the trip before hand, I had not prepared myself for what God would do in and through us there. I know that in most short term missions trips that the people who go are usually blessed far more than the people who are ministered to. But, I underestimated this blessing. All 19 of us had an experience with God that will be part of our relationship forever. Not only that, but the relationships we were able to establish with the churches in the Tepic area were awesome!”*

## Team 3: Pucallpa, Peru, June 28 – July 6

- This team included 12 people from Pennsylvania and Ohio, and was led by CPI missionary Tom Hopkins.
- The team was literally met by Shipibo women dancing in the street to welcome them.
- The team helped put in the foundation for the new church in the Shipibo village of Nueva Era in Pucallpa, Peru.
- They checked blood pressure and blood sugar levels and fitted over 200 pairs of glasses.
- Three guitars, a keyboard, and an amplifier were provided for use in worship services.

## Team 4: Pucallpa, Peru, August 3-10

- This team included 27 people: students from the Living Word Academy, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania on their senior class trip, teachers, and a few others. They worked mainly in a Shipibo Indian village near the Amazon jungle city of Pucallpa, Peru.
- Group members provided funds for and worked on various aspects of the church building in the village of Nueva Era including a cement beam, trusses, columns, and benches.
- What they experienced went beyond holding outreaches (as important as that is). They entered into the life of the tribe. They worshipped, prayed and sang together, learned Shipibo dances, worked along side of one another, played soccer, and purchased handicrafts from the people.
  - Group members learned about jungle missions from long term career missionaries from Wycliffe and three other agencies.



**From Mark Cote, Head Master of the Living Word Academy:** *“The Class of 09 at Living Word Academy began their senior year in the jungle of Peru. Though the class made special connections and was able to bless the Shipibo people of Nueva Era, the blessing these people shared with this class will always remain in their hearts. Their preparation for graduation has this perspective of the Great Commission as a springboard.”*

**From Tia Ploutz (senior):** *“The Shipibo people showed me that I need to be thankful for every single blessing I’m given; and not to overvalue possessions. They’re only temporary. God and his people are eternal.”*

**From Michelle Hayden Senior Advisor:** *“It was a wonderful, wonderful trip. The seniors were true servants and we all had a great time.”*

## Our Visit to the Yaminahuas

- By Steven Shepard

After our short-term mission team went home, Gary Schmidt, CPI missionary Cesar Soto, my son Jonathan, and I flew out to the Yaminahua tribe deep in the Peruvian jungles. It had been almost 2 years since I had visited the Yamis. When Cesar began his work there were no established churches among the Yamis. Now there is a church in the village of San Pablo. The church there is continuing to meet even when Cesar is not with them. For the first couple days we shared at three meetings in San Pablo and then took off the following day for a 4 hour river trip to visit a couple more villages. The first village was quite small. Though recently established, they hope to eventually have a church there. About 3 hours later we arrived at the village of Dorado. I had been there in 2002. The village had grown from about 75 to about 200 people. We quickly set up our mosquito netting and soon we were meeting with about 20 adults and 40 children. The next morning we met again explaining the Gospel through story telling. The people of Dorado are very interested in the Gospel, but have no one to teach them. After prayer we went further down river to spend the night and then meet the small plane for our return to Pucallpa. Cesar Soto now wants to spend 2-3 weeks in Dorado on his next missionary visit. Pray for a solid church and leadership to be raised up in this Yaminahua village.



**Jonathan Shepard** (right) rides in a dug out canoe on a 4 hour river trip to Yami villages. In Dorado we prayed for a Chitanahua man (on left) who was living with the Yamis. The Chitanahuas had no contact with the outside world until about 1996. Jonathan writes, *"As I saw not only the great physical need but the vast spiritual need, I was overwhelmed with a desire for the people to know God in the same life changing way that has blessed my life. It is my prayer that God would raise up a leader from their people to live and share the gospel: that the Yaminahuas would be a powerful light in the dark Amazon."*



## God is Using Listening Devices to Reach Huichol Indians in Mexico

1,000 solar powered listening devices called "megavoices" containing an audio version of the Huichol New Testament are now being produced and distributed to remote mountain communities in west central Mexico. We are hearing about the tremendous interest among the Huichol to listen to the spoken Word. The Huichol, like all tribal societies, have an oral culture. In addition, many do not read making the spoken Word ideally suited. CPI partners with Domingo, a native Huichol church planter, who sent this report: *"I want to give thanks to all those who saw what a great blessing the megavoices would be in the mountains. There are now 2 couples who were converted through the megavoices. These couples came to ask questions about the Gospel, and after explaining, I gave them the megavoices. Later they returned with more questions. This time they surrendered their lives to Christ. They are continuing to be encouraged and to follow faithfully. Another place that we sent a megavoice is a village called Huayanamota which is very idolatrous. People come from all over Mexico to worship the idol; but now the Gospel is reaching this place."*



## PARTNER WITH CPI

### TO MEET THESE NEEDS —

1. To complete Huichol missionary Domingo's support for 2007 (\$700)
2. Expenses for Matses pastors' training conference, Nov 10-14 (\$1,000)
3. Expenses for Lima pastors and business conferences, Nov 19-22 (\$4,500)

All gifts to CPI are tax deductible.