



*Volume 12 Number 1*



*Native Ministry*

## Editorial

In its 50-plus years of existence, UIM International has been blessed with many Native leaders who have had the vision of reaching their own people for Jesus Christ. During this period of time several Native churches have stepped out and become faithful, effective, and ongoing witnesses for our Lord in their communities. One of the challenges our missionary staff faces is how to transfer smoothly and effectively to the Native leaders the responsibilities the missionaries have borne.

Currently a few churches are ready to become independent of the missionaries. We would encourage you to pray for the Native leaders as they step out in faith to become self-governing and self-sufficient church bodies. Pray for wisdom for these churches as they seek to proclaim the Gospel to their own people and that much spiritual fruit will result.



John (Jack) Tirrell  
Interim Executive Director

## Big Heart for Her People

By Carol Burton, UIM missionary

When most people have decided it is retirement time, Alice Largo is busy reaching her Navajo people for Christ. At a pace that would make any young person tired, Alice has Bible studies, teaches Navajo reading classes and Navajo songs to her people, and sets aside one hour each Tuesday to pray with others for their people. Alice explains, "I want to reach more souls for Christ and serve my Lord to those people who don't know the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior." Health issues haven't slowed Alice down. In early 2008 she was diagnosed with lung cancer and has been undergoing a chemical treatment, which seems to have removed all but one spot. Between treatments she is busy serving in Dilkon Bible Church and ministering to the spiritual needs of people in her area of Bird Springs, Arizona. Alice's mother, Mary, at 97 years of age, lives with her. She enjoys going with Alice as she travels the reservation to visit.

The needs are great on the reservation. Alice sees heartaches among her people. Lawrence, a middle-age man with health issues, is living with his Christian mother on the reservation after his wife left him. Alice prays with him and his mother and challenges them to stay close to God during the testings of life. Recently a young pregnant girl got drunk with her friends, ended in jail, and then hanged herself. Suicides among Native youth are becoming more commonplace, demonstrating the urgency of Alice's message of hope in Christ. Pray for God's provision of strength as she continues to minister.



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Alice Largo and her mother, Mary

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UIM International is a faith mission dependent on the contributions of the Lord's people.

The purpose of UIM shall be to establish indigenous churches among Native Indian, Mexican, and Hispanic peoples of North America built on the Scriptures and functioning within their cultural orientation.

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## *Missionary Training for Planting Churches*

(EMPI—Entrenamiento Misionero Plantadores de Iglesias)  
By Don Nellis, UIM's Hispanic and Mexico Field Director

The Lord led us to the state of Jalisco, Mexico, in the early '90s in response to the pleading of Silvia, a native of El Grullo, Jalisco. She was burdened for her hometown, almost sure no one there had heard or responded to the Gospel. By faith, we went for a visit.

God had marvelous plans high above our own! One thing led to another. My friend, Hector Correa, pastor of a large church in Guadalajara, warmly welcomed and helped us. The church's mission pastor, Constantino Varas, became a wonderful and strategic friend. Jalisco, one of the six states in what we call the Circle of Silence of central western Mexico, became a target field for UIM International. Missionaries Tim and Linda Woodring responded to the challenge of this gospel-resistant area and began serving effectively under Pastor Constantino's leadership. UIM missionaries Ken and Pat Grimes trained small but dynamic churches to share the Gospel.

Guadalajara has become an excellent Spanish language learning location for our new missionaries. It is the home of Ismael Ruvalcaba, Jaime Coria, and Salvador Caro, three godly men who comprise UIM's Internacional Mexico A.C.

Board. Veteran missionaries Eldon and Dorothy Miner have duplicated their effective TEE ministry in southwestern Jalisco through the work of Javier and Ana Jacobi. Wilfredo Ulloa has come alongside the Miners to help extend TEE work in new areas of Jalisco and Nayarit.



*Ismael Ruvacalba, President of UIM International Mexico A.C.*

to the missionary challenge and are pioneering in Quebec, Canada, among a tribal people . . . a story in itself!

**H**ow can we reach the more than 20 million people in the Circle of Silence? The Lord has given us a foundational strategy—prayer that He will send forth Mexican missionaries, a prayer He’s answering! Several Mexican couples and two single men are applying to UIM to become church planters in areas with no gospel witness.

But, there is a wrinkle—UIM requires all of its members to undergo transcultural training and team development. An effective program in English exists in Canada, but we needed and developed an equivalent in Spanish, which includes training in trade skills such as plumbing, electricity, mechanics, bee keeping, soldering, construction, and computers.



*Mexican family applying to UIM*

Thus the missionaries learn practical things that, hopefully, will provide a source of income in the communities where they will be placed. The Lord has already supplied the trainers!

Transcultural training is a more complicated subject to cover. One might ask: “Why would a Mexican missionary team need transcultural training when they plan to serve within their own country?” The simple answer is

that within Mexico, as in any country, there are thousands of micro cultures. A missionary must be able to identify key features of the culture and to adapt to them in order to reach the people effectively.

To develop this monumental part of the program, the Lord supplied John Cosby, who speaks very good Spanish. At a 15-day session in January 2008, John taught six future transcultural course instructors the course content adapted to the needs of Mexican missionaries. The workshop covered 1) cross-cultural communication, 2) animistic spiritism, 3) worldviews and the Bible, 4) spiritual warfare, 5) team-building and leadership, 6) interpersonal relationships, and 7) creation of a church-planting strategy. John asks: “Will the transcultural training content address the needs these Mexican missionaries will face? If the course meets a significant need in Mexico, can it be used in other parts of the world as more believers around the world respond to God’s call ‘to the uttermost parts of the earth’?”



*John Cosby (in patterned shirt) teaching future transcultural course instructors*

We believe the answer to both of these questions is YES. We can catch just a glimpse of God’s great plan for this vast region. He truly is calling out a people for His Name! More darkness will be displaced by the light of His penetrating Word. Please pray for the Mexican missionaries, all of whom need financial support. UIM has approved a project to allow donors to assist with a portion of these needs. God has been faithful . . . and He never changes! “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2, KJV).



*Mexican family applying to UIM*

# Children's Missionary Adventure

By Ismael Ruvalcaba, President of UIM International Mexico A.C.  
(Translated by Don Nellis, UIM's Hispanic and Mexico Field Director)

Eight hundred fifty eager children received an orientation to missions at the third annual Children's Missionary Adventure in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, on June 9, 2007. Approximately 250 volunteers helped with registration, ushering, workshops, crafts, music, publicity, security, and logistics. The day began with registration, followed by worship and a parade of flags from many nations carried by children from various churches. Then came interactive workshops designed to help the children learn about different countries, ethnic groups, and ministries. Numerous ministries were represented: Mark Ministry; Nicaragua; Television Ministries; Come and See; Emilio; The Land and the Wardrobe, Huicholes; Challenge; Gods of the New Age; Atikameks; Wheels Ministries; the Persecuted Church of the Zapotecas; Christian Medical Society; Xtreme Games; Theater; Peace Child; Ready, Let's Go; and Missionary Clowns.

Each workshop area was designed to reflect the culture of the people on whom that particular workshop focused. The children observed situations, customs, traditions, beliefs, experiences, languages, and worship forms of various peoples. They learned 1) how to do the work of missions, 2) the importance of praying for missionaries, and 3) the importance of financial giving—the three principal objectives for celebrating this event.

For years Mexico has depended heavily on foreign missionaries. It has been slow in promoting the truth that we Mexicans can be missionaries in our own country; to



*Zapotec workshop (in foreground);  
another workshop (in background)*

our ethnic peoples; to rural regions that, though near cities, do not have a Christian church in their communities; and to Hispanic communities in the U.S. We want to plant in the children's hearts and minds a new way of thinking about missions. Children are fertile soil, such that in a few years we will be not only sending missionaries, but also providing them with a strong intercessory and financial support base.

All that took place on June 9 was a great blessing. It wasn't just the emotion of seeing all the children participating in the various workshop activities; rather, it was the fact that 77 churches were represented, along with children from other religions. We glorify God, Who supplied every need according to His riches in glory.

You can participate in this wonderful work by serving as a volunteer, giving financially, and interceding that God will supply each need as we prepare to celebrate this annual Children's Missionary Adventure. Pray, too, that He will work in the life of each child and volunteer. We believe that before long we Mexicans will have pastors, missionaries, intercessors for pastors and missionaries, and those who will support the missionary enterprise economically. "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).



*Zapotec Christian speaking about  
persecution of Zapotec Christians*

# *Native-Led Ministry Initiatives in Canada*

By Doug Anderson, Canada Field Director and Interim Fields Division Director

(assisted by Daren George, Vice President of UIM's Canada Board and member of Native Ministries Board)

Encouraging development of true leaders does not happen by requiring emerging leaders to stay within the borders of someone else's dream. Native leaders do not just step in to take over the missionaries' leadership roles and do exactly what the missionaries were doing. True leadership develops as men and women grounded in God's Word are moved by God to meet the challenges that He

Canada's First Nations people. Christian Native leaders began to meet to pray and to discuss development of Christian leaders in Native communities, an event now known as First Nations Talk Circle. The Lord is doing a great work in and through these godly Native men. UIM Canada and other Canadian missions support them and ask God to provide direction, unity, and vision as they meet together.



*Daren George (left) with youth*

gives them. Passion, ownership, and vision speak of real leadership, which involves loving and following our Lord and loving people. We long to see this kind of Native-led ministry.

In 1992 the Lord burdened Vincent Yellow Old Woman and Mervin Cheechoo about Canada's many First Nations people struggling with grief, sexual abuse, addictions, suicide, and scars from residential school experiences. The passion the Lord gave these men to address these issues with Christ's love and God's Word gave birth to Rising Above. Rising Above started small with the goal of First Nations people helping First Nations people through biblical counseling and offering hope through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Seminars and training programs have helped many First Nations people deal with these painful issues.

In 2005 UIM missionaries Jerry and Cara Holm helped bring Rising Above to Prince George, British Columbia. Many lives were impacted. As a result, a group from Smithers and Moricetown organized to bring Rising Above to Moricetown in 2006, where more than 400 Native people from B.C. heard God's Word applied to their lives in deep and meaningful ways. Many lives were changed, with ongoing effects.

A few years ago the Lord laid on the hearts of several Native leaders the need to meet for mutual encouragement and for seeking ways to further ministry among

Several years ago the Lord burdened Daren George, a First Nations leader in Kyah Bible Fellowship (KBF), for teens in Moricetown and Smithers. Although Daren had no formal training in working with youth, he had a passion to reach these young people with the life-changing Gospel. He began weekly meetings with them, prayerfully backed by the KBF believers. Teens responded to God's Word and to Daren's love for them. Daren challenged them to begin their own ministry to other youth in surrounding villages. The teens practiced presenting the Gospel and biblical truths through drama and music. Things didn't always go smoothly; there were bumps and disappointments along the way, but these young people became involved in sharing the Gospel with teens and adults in Moricetown and surrounding communities.

Today, two of those young people are helping to lead the youth, along with Daren and his wife, Marilyn; UIMers Wendell and Heather Garrison; and a young woman who began following Christ at Rock Nest Ranch. It is exciting to see this second generation of First Nations youth stepping into leadership and ministry roles.

Daren is concerned that First Nations men find strength in the Lord to step courageously into often-neglected leadership responsibilities. Men need to repent of the sin of not taking the leadership roles to which God calls them. Prayer and encouragement are vital for Native leaders who step out in faith to make disciples of Jesus Christ and for the future of Native churches here in Canada.



*Daren George (left) with friend*

# The Lodge That God Built

By Wendell Garrison, Director of Rock Nest Ranch in British Columbia

Don't Miss! Dedication Celebration August 7-9, 2009 - RSVP: Email [rnr@uim.org](mailto:rnr@uim.org) or call (250) 845-2177

For more than 34 years Rock Nest Ranch (RNR) in British Columbia, Canada, has operated a summer program, with minimal fall and spring events, all focused on sharing the Gospel with surrounding First Nations commu-



*Rock Nest Ranch banquet*

nities. The time has come to expand RNR's opportunities for year-round proclamation of the Gospel. When the Lord opened doors for the construction of a new lodge, there were those who said, "Yes, Lord, we'll start construction."

The walls of the new lodge began to rise in May 2004. Now those walls stand strong and are being finished with drywall, paint, and siding. Installation of the heating and cooling systems has begun. Plans are underway for an August celebration of God's goodness in providing this new lodge. The need for additional funding and work crews is a topic of prayer for RNR staff and friends.

In the past few years many First Nations brothers and sisters have shared with me about their time at RNR. For some, a week at camp was the best time in their lives. God took hold of others and is still working on taking down the walls they had built for protection. Some are filling summer camp leadership positions; others are in ministry with youth and children. We pray and trust that our Lord will

continue to speak to the hearts of others and that one day the seeds that were sown while they were here at RNR will sprout, grow, and produce fruit.

The future of RNR is founded on the love of Christ, which calls men, women, and youth from all nations to believe in Jesus and be baptized. All the ways in which RNR and the new lodge will be used of God are not yet realized. However, possibilities include workshops dealing with abuse, alcohol, and parenting/relationships, along with sharing the Gospel and training in God's Word. We are looking to the Lord to transform lives as they come under the training and instruction of His Word through His people. We trust that God will use RNR and the new lodge to play a part in the spiritual growth of the Native brothers and sisters.

August 7-9, 2009, is to be a weekend of celebration, a time for all who know RNR to join together to testify to the sovereignty of our God. Only He was able to build a place which shares the good news of His Son, Jesus—a place where people from the First Nations communities



*Rock Nest Ranch lodge*

and all nations feel safe and can step out from the oppression found in this world and where walls they built to protect themselves will tumble. We desire and pray that, above all, the name of Jesus will ring throughout the trees and walls of Rock Nest Ranch. Plan to come to join in the celebration of our Lord this August.

## *UIM gratefully acknowledges your gifts in memory and honor of:*

Zelma Cree  
Ellsworth Crockett  
Rosalyn Erickson  
Calvin Johnson

Bob Norton  
Marvel Olson  
Von and Edna Stillhammer  
Donald L. Thomas, Sr

Helen Tirrell  
Hilda Van Dyne  
Rus Wright

# Spiritual Needs Can't Wait

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Ps. 121:2). Bailouts, recession, unemployment, housing starts, foreclosures, consumer confidence, Dow Jones average, the stimulus package—all of these have become increasingly familiar terms in recent months. As both the U.S. and the world economies continue their downward spiral, a growing sense of consternation pervades the news media and financial markets. As believers, we must always remember that our Helper has the very best credentials! The current economic crisis did not catch by surprise the sovereign God who "... sits enthroned above the circle of the earth." Our confidence must always remain in Him.

Like most Christian ministries, UIM is making tough financial decisions to balance the budget. The Program and Ministry Fund that underlies all of the operation of UIM International has been especially hard hit. To balance expenditures with income, we have instituted telephone conference calls to replace face-to-face business meetings, we have cut administrative travel budgets, and several administrators have voluntarily taken significant salary cuts. Our chief financial officer continues to comb through our expenditures to see where additional cuts can be made. On the positive side of the ledger, several anonymous donors have made major contributions to the work in

Mexico. A matching gift of \$75,000 for the camp in Oaxaca has been bolstered already with an additional \$10,000 from dedicated friends. A private foundation provided three years of funding for Native American counselors at Broken Arrow Bible Ranch near Gallup, New Mexico. Mission Projects Fellowship has provided another grant for aircraft maintenance equipment in Mexico. These large donations and a multitude of smaller ones continue to provide vital financial partnership in reaching the lost.

The desperate spiritual needs of Hispanic and Native peoples cannot wait for an upturn in the economy. Your support now, especially for the Program and Ministry Fund, will reap eternal rewards. Our confidence is in the Lord's people and in Him of whom the Psalmist said, "I will lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven" (Ps. 123:1). If you have questions about needs and projects, please contact me or the missionary directly involved.

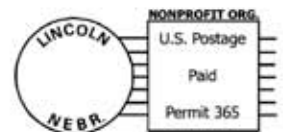
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