

# Global Report

Changing Lives  
Changing Nations

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## Missionary's Memo From the Americas

By Shirley Adams

CBSI's Regional Director for the Americas

Through the prayers of my parents and the compassionate biblical teaching of my childhood church, I became conscious of my need for the Savior. Walking forward in a worship service invitation to faith, I felt distraught over my sin. No pressure had been applied. It was just the Spirit opening my heart to the unspeakable thought that I could be separated from the Lord forever.

As a young person I was interested in kingdom work but wanted a good standing in the world

as well. On a mission trip to Mexico I wrestled with this dichotomy, and God clarified His purposes for me. The possibility of hearing Him say to me "well done" came to eclipse all else.

Now, after 41 years of living and working in Mexico, I'm glad He set me straight. The joy of serving, the intimacy of relationship with Him in trials, and His changing of the "bread and fish" of human effort into results of eternal weight have blessed me beyond what I could ever contemplate.

In CBSI I have served as a Teacher, an Area Regional Director and the Regional Director for North and Central America and the Caribbean. Recently the geography of my service expanded to include South America.

Right now, writing from Venezuela, I'm beginning to envision what this ministry will be. Through prayer support and the guidance of

Shirley Adams, CBSI's Regional Director for the Americas, and national leaders



the Holy Spirit, I want to align myself with what the Lord is doing here in South America.

My final answer in all situations is what the apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:20-21: "To Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

I will be thankful forever for God's outpouring of grace; it upholds me as I walk through difficulties; it sustains me in a missionary career. Beyond this, the Lord has blessed me with a wonderful family, completing the lovely picture of His grace and mercy in my life.

I hope you will enjoy these additional notes from CBSI South America and Mexico...



Enrique and family

## I Am a Man Christ Is Changing

By Enrique, Class Member  
Guadalajara, Mexico

My name is Enrique. My wife is Maria, my son is Felix Omar, and my daughters are Roxana Montserrat and Maria Ximena. Through the powerful work of God in our lives, my entire family is now Christian.

I acknowledge that in recent years I lived in sin, following the world and its attractions and ignoring the ungodly fruit I was sowing. I embraced my lifestyle, thinking that it was the only way to live. However, the day arrived for me to pay the cost of my sin. I suffered greatly, recognizing that I was not happy and that my children and wife were also suffering the consequences of my sin.

In this agonized state I talked with my wife, who taught in the church we were attending, saying, "You know God; tell me what I can do so that God can change my lifestyle and help me leave alcohol and change my bad attitudes." Maria answered that she did not know what to do, but she also longed for a change in me.

When I could stand it no longer, I pleaded, "God, if You exist, will You

See **Enrique**, continued on page 4



*CBSI class members dress in a time-honored way for a Chilean Independence Day celebration.*

## Trusting Christ in Difficult Diagnosis

By Judith

Class Leader, Viña del Mar, Chile

My husband, Today, and I lead a CBSI study group in our home, and he is the Teacher as well. A heterogeneous group with young teens and professionals of all ages, it has a wonderful spirit of harmony and desire to know the Lord.



*Today & Judith*

Early in August of this year, doctors gave us the awful news that Today has stage-4 lung cancer. Although this hit us hard, we're placing our confidence in the Lord. Christ is the only source of our trust. He is our hope, and He has the last word. I don't understand all that's happening, but I'm sure the Lord has everything under control and is fulfilling His purposes in our family.

Our faith, mostly theoretical before, is growing in amazing ways. We're learning to know the Lord with tremendous intimacy. This gives us encouragement each day and the sense that His mercies are new every morning.

We're continuing in CBSI without interruption because we understand that the Lord is first. Thirty or more people from our church meet in our home weekly to study His Word, and we absolutely love it.

Today has received his first chemotherapy, and he feels fine. We're living in expectation of what the Lord will do, believing that He will surprise us with good news. The love, prayers and expressions of affection on the part of the body of Christ have left us overwhelmed. We don't deserve such an outpouring of love; it tells us that we're all members of a great family!

## Praise to Our Wonderful Barrier-Breaking Lord!

By Delia

EBCI Unión Cristiana, Viña del Mar, Chile

I became acquainted with CBSI in Santiago, in 1995, having little knowledge of the Bible. The class was a new and attractive experience for me, but I couldn't imagine then how important CBSI would become in my life. In my second year I was called to serve as class Coordinator, and later I became the Assistant Class Leader.

In 2002, my family moved to Viña del Mar. Missing CBSI, I began to ask the Lord to open doors for this precious ministry. This seemed impossible because the pastor had a thriving Bible study. Though it was traditional and not interactive, it was successful.

I kept praying, convinced that God is a specialist in breaking through paradigms and removing barriers.

When I talked with the pastor, he listened attentively but seemed reticent, so I suggested that he review some CBSI materials. Eventually he said I could present a proposal to the elders. Only one elder read the lessons I supplied, but he is in charge of theology for the church's Bible institute, and he saw CBSI's excellence and potential value for the church and community.

Encouraged, I asked the Chile CBSI National Team to help me present the concept again. With a mix of enthusiasm and nervousness, we met with the



*Delia, center, with Class Leaders*

pastor. The theologian supported the idea strongly, and the pastor gave us the go-ahead to initiate CBSI. I asked him who he would like to open a new class. He told me that I would be the one to direct the ministry and that I should find leaders to work with me.

I did as he said, and in 2005 we began our first CBSI class, with 20 women. Today we have five classes — two for women, one for men, one for couples and one for youth — with a total of 120 people studying God's Word. As I have said, I could not have envisioned this ahead of time.

Now I can say wholeheartedly and with gratitude, along with the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Praise God for all He has done and all He will do in Chile!



*Right: Voladores de Papantla, or the Papantla Flyers, perform a ritual dance that the Totonac people in Mexico have been doing for perhaps 1,500 years — climbing a 150-foot pole and then falling back and flying in a spiral to the ground.*

# Large Class Leads Response to New CBSI USA-Ethnos Ministry

In-depth Scripture study in Spanish through CBSI has ignited the hearts of more than 100 residents of Phoenix, Arizona.

Led by their pastor, these people — originally from Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador — formed mixed-gender discussion-group “cells” in June of this year. They met in their homes to delve into the *God’s Amazing Book* study. Now they are gratefully studying *Romans*, with young people doing lessons in English, because for many of them it is their primary language. The groups meet a second time each week at the church for prayer, praise music and testimonies before hearing their pastor give the lecture, which they call “the challenge.”

Born and seminary-trained in Mexico, Ricardo Felix moved to California in 2000 to start a church. In 2006 he accepted a call from Bethany Bible Church in Phoenix. Earlier this year, during a meeting at Phoenix Seminary, he heard about CBSI. Inquiring further, he embraced CBSI materials and methods and helped

organize leadership training.

“I believe our call is to make disciples, and now, with CBSI solidly established in our community, I feel we’re not only making disciples of Christ but also developing and training good leaders with pastoral hearts,” Pastor Felix says. “Our goal is that this flame will spark into a full spiritual fire that will fill the lives of thousands with the gospel of Christ.”

**“There’s great networking potential as people of various nationalities living in the U.S. reach out to friends and family members in their home countries — with the possibility that as our ministry grows, they too can enjoy CBSI studies. What does the Lord have prepared for CBSI as we see this happening? It’s exciting to imagine!”**

Such fervor has produced a number of faith decisions and baptisms—a fact that has ministry leaders rejoicing. As a full-blown, stand-alone study, the Phoenix program is the largest response so far to “USA-Ethnos,” CBSI’s recently begun special outreach to foreign-language groups within the United States. Also, eleven CBS classes have formed Spanish-language Core Groups using CBSI materials as part of this effort.

“The desire of pastors’ hearts is for their congregations to grow in grace and

truth, and they know that God’s Word is the source of that,” says Ethnos Co-Director Marcia Buskirk. “It’s wonderful for us to be able to place His ministry in their worthy hands and see immediately how much it means to people to study God’s Word in languages that lift their hearts as no other tongues can.”

In Phoenix this benefit extends beyond church walls. Each CBSI home cell touches a neighborhood, and many now in the class, having heard about it from those who live near them, are not church-goers. When they heard about the opportunity, they were reminded of their church roots or attracted to Bible study as seekers.

“We’re praying for a tipping point when many foreign-language churches in the U.S. join in this opportunity to make life-transforming studies available,” says Shirley Adams, CBSI’s Regional Director for the Americas.

“There’s great networking potential as people of various nationalities living in the U.S. reach out to friends and family members in their home countries — with the possibility that as our ministry grows, they too can enjoy CBSI studies. What does the Lord have prepared for CBSI as we see this happening? It’s exciting to imagine! There’s tremendous blessing in the study of God’s Word, and His amazing book is for everyone in the world, no matter what language they speak or where they live.”



*Pastor Ricardo, shown left and below near the center, wearing white shirt, poses with his leadership team for the new Spanish language CBSI class in Phoenix, Arizona.*



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# Pair to Minister in Their Caribbean Homelands

Two women who know the blessings of CBSI will soon return to island homelands commissioned as CBSI “Calebs.” Bahamian Angelita Ingraham and June Taklalsingh of Trinidad and Tobago are nationals serving in CBSI to pioneer classes with people in their own country and culture.

Angelita, who joined the Lynchburg, Virginia, CBS class in 2010, heard a Caleb speak about the ministry, and before the woman had finished Angelita felt her own heart stirring to God’s call.

“He’s been working ever since then,” she says. “Everything is falling into place. I’m excited to be trained and eager to begin working with Pastor Cedric on Grand Bahama Island. He’s young, energetic, wise beyond his years and passionate about the Word of God, wanting believers to know and live out what they learn from it.

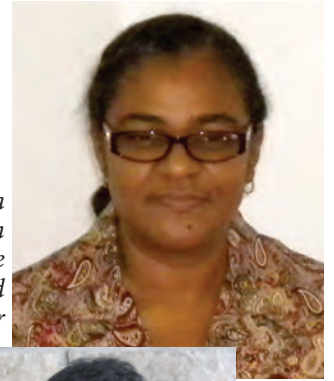
“This opportunity for Bahamians to study the Word for themselves is definitely an answer to prayer.”

When June, Teaching Director for the Evening CBS class in Mississauga, Ontario, heard that she had been selected for Caleb ministry, she was overcome with God’s goodness. She had served in CBSI in Trinidad in 2003, helping launch five new classes, but circumstances, including medical issues, took her elsewhere in the Caribbean and to involvement with Alpha Ministries for a decade.

June’s love of the Lord and CBSI and yearning for her homeland never waned in that time, so she’s thrilled to be planning for a homecoming visit to the islands this month.

“This is God’s call on my life!” she declares. “My burden for my homeland never left me.”

Top: Angelita Ingraham  
Bottom: June Taklalsingh and a granddaughter



## CBSI Opens Doors to God’s Blessings

By William  
Class Member, El Hatillo, Venezuela

Since I became involved in a CBSI small group, God has covered me with blessings. I live in a city on the outskirts of Caracas and am a member of the praise team for my church, Iglesia Comunidad Cristiana. Amazingly, 250 people signed up for our first study course, and as we’re soon to begin our second course, we’re reaching further into our community with the power of God’s Word.

CBSI is a wonderful experience for my wife and me. We’re growing spiritually as a couple and realizing our dream of having a church wedding. For various reasons we’ve been slow in coming to this, though we were married in a civil ceremony some time ago.

This kind of study has strengthened our praise team’s bonding in Christ, and we’re learning more from the Word of God than ever before. Any doubts we had are being cleared up.

CBSI is practical and life-changing. It has motivated me to read and understand the Word of God. In times past, because of my many responsibilities, I found no time for Bible study — nor did I have much interest in it, honestly. But now I’m encouraged, along with my friends, to study the Word of God diligently. Each member of my small group has many interesting things to share about this experience, and I dare to assure you that CBSI is a blessing for all of them as well.



William

## Enrique, continued from page 1

please take us someplace where You can give my children what they need to be happy and not continue suffering on account of me and my bad example?” I knew that I could never give them anything worthwhile.

At that moment, we were invited to attend another church, where our entire family began to study God’s Word through CBSI.

Shortly after beginning these studies, I realized that I’d been against God and needed to make a decision: either follow the world, or follow Christ and enjoy being a part of the kingdom of God. It was two-and-a-half years ago that I made my decision to accept Jesus Christ as my only Savior and renounce the world. My wife recently accepted the Lord as well, and my children also. The Word of God has transformed our lives individually and as an entire family.

Now we understand that without God we are nothing, and without Jesus Christ we would never have come to know Him. I thank God that He has grafted us in as His people. In this way we’re beginning to enjoy His wonders, and He is transforming us into new people and renewing our understanding. He provides all that we need, spiritually and materially. Amen!



Enrique