February 2015 Recap

"Declare his glory among the nations..." Psalm 96:3

My 30 Year Reunion

"It's a lady's head on the sidewalk," shouted a lady as she looked over the head of the crowd at something on the ground. I was walking down the street of Belem, the city at the mouth of the great Amazon River.

Though that happened 29 years ago, I still remember walking over to the crowd to see "the head". Eventually the crowd dispersed and I saw that it was a live lady, just a head and a tiny body...no shoulders, no arms, no legs. I sat down on the sidewalk and got to know Maria. She expressed her thanks to God and her family for the care she received, and that she could still pictures with a pen in her mouth. I was embarrassed because I complain about things that in comparison were nothing to her problems.

She offered to paint me a picture, and asked me to come back in an hour. When I came back she had a beautiful picture of a young lady waiting for me. She told me it was a picture of herself. "Yourself?" I asked, "How can that be of yourself Maria?" She explained that someday God was going to make her that way, and thus that is the way she saw herself. Again I was embarrassed at my narrow way of looking and judging others. I realized that I needed to be more like Maria and look at others through God's glasses.
Over the years I thought about my encounter with Maria, so I decided to start looking for her. When my son-in-law, Brad, visited Belem, he discovered that Maria no longer lived there but had moved to Manaus. The next time I visited Manaus I began to ask around at the city parks for Maria. I was told that she used to come there, but that was a long time ago. She no longer came.

Disappointed, I left, wondering if Maria was still alive. Over the last 15 years I have visited Manaus many times in order to encourage and facilitate the reopening of the Light Bearer (Luzeiro) Medical Launch Program and the Aviation Program. Praise the Lord the Luzeiro program has reopened along with two other supporting ministries who also operate launches, but the Aviation Program remained closed. With over 1500 miles of Brazilian Amazon, only aviation can properly cover those distances efficiently.

My wife Becky and I received residency visas in Brazil a few months ago in order to reopen the Medical Aviation work along the Amazon—a life dream becoming a reality. We moved from Bolivia to Manaus, Brazil where we are working to establish an airbase along the river, purchase airplanes, and train young Brazilian pilots to carry on the work. We know God will provide the resources as we move forward by faith.

It had been almost 30 years since I’d last seen Maria, but I kept looking—hoping that one day we would meet again.

Then one day, as I rounded the corner in the city near the park, on the sidewalk was Maria. Thrilled, I called her by name and dropped down by her side to talk to her. I showed her the picture she had drawn for me so many years ago. She did not remember me but she did remember the picture. We exchanged information and our friendship rekindled, I plan to visit her again when I return. Maria has been such an inspiration to me and to thousands more over the years as I have told her story. I hope you have been blessed as well.

Please pray for her and the Aviation Program soon to begin. Thousands are waiting, praying, crying and dying for someone to come. Are you willing to come or help send someone?

From the front lines of battle,
-Uncle David
"Sowing beside all waters..."

By Steve Shedell

It seems like only a few months since 2009 when my wife and daughter and I first went to the small island of Grenada in the southern Caribbean to help start a radio station (pictured).

At that time we had no idea how God would use us to share His last message of mercy with Grenada and the English speaking world through the broadcasts of Grenada Family Network. This past summer GFN Radio celebrated 5 years on the air and has become the favorite radio station of many loyal listeners.

Recently God has opened the door for us to return to Grenada. On March 3, 2015 we will arrive and begin planning and working to start TV broadcasts. We know there will be many challenges. The enemy will not give up territory easily and will oppose our progress and try to destroy our peace, but we know he is a defeated foe. Please join us in prayer so we will have the necessary resources to do the work and the wisdom needed to reach many hearts with God’s truth.

Isaiah 32:17 says: “The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and
assurance forever.” That has been the effect of the radio station in many homes, businesses, government offices, and even public buses. Take a few minutes to view this listener testimony and notice the peace and assurance expressed. A few verses later, Isaiah says: “Blessed are you who sow beside all waters…” (verse 20). That’s what GFN Radio and TV are all about! Only in eternity will we fully see the results of our efforts and the lives that were changed.

Won’t you join us in the blessing of sowing gospel seeds in Grenada? God has placed an infinite value on every person for whom Jesus died. He has placed that value on you, dear friends! Radio and TV broadcasting is expensive in this world’s value system, but totally worth it in heaven’s value system! What price would you pay to save the life of your beloved child? God feels the same way. What can we do to help Him?

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**UPDATE from HEADQUARTERS**

Hello there! My name is Tim Tillman, the manager of the Gospel Ministries International Corporate Headquarters. Over the course of the next few months I’ll be sharing with you a little bit about the staff and activities here in McDonald, Tennessee.

We have a great team at GMI headquarters dedicated to making things run smoothly for our stakeholders: the missionaries in the field, our precious donors and supporters.

**WELCOME ALICIA!**

This month we introduce to you Alicia Viola, our receptionist. She started only two months ago, but her warmth and friendliness have already made a noticeable impact. You will likely talk with her if you call before 2 pm.
Alicia is fluent in several languages including English, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. In addition to answering phone and e-mail correspondence, Alicia translates documents, assists with a variety of accounting functions and manages incoming mail and packages. You can reach her by phone at our main number or by email at reception@gospelministry.org.

**Office Items Needed:**

1. Office grade Color Laser Printer ($1,900)
2. Office grade Micro-Cut Paper Shredder ($250)
3. Scale for weighing packages to be put on airplanes ($149)

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**Our Transition from Tennessee to Santa Cruz**

For six years my family and I (Luis Jaen) worked at GMI headquarters in TN. My wife and I moved there in January 2009 to work as full-time volunteers for the ministry in the Media department. A year later, my wife got pregnant. Her new job as a mother started when Izhar came into the world. Three years later, we were a full family of four when Abrianna arrived.

Working at GMI was a great blessing! It was exciting to see the Lord always working on our behalf. The Lord not only provided food and housing for us, but also knowledge. I got there not knowing anything about TV Production. In the six past years I learned everything from cameras, set, directing, lighting etc. It was great experience, but my wife and I always wanted to do something more for the Lord. We prayed to God to show us if he wanted us to go somewhere else. In September of last year we received the call to move to Bolivia. We were nervous and excited at the same time. The Lord had answered our prayer!

On January 21 of this year we arrived here in Bolivia, and oh
boy, our new journey begins. Bolivia is a difficult country to do immigration if you are just American, but we all have dual citizenship. We have only a short time to finish our residency applications, and my wife and kids have different nationalities than me, so there are different requirements for all of us.

The first 2 weeks we stayed with Uncle David and Aunt Becky. Aunt Becky had been working on preparing a vacation bible school for the children that live in the neighborhood close to the TV station! We were happy to help. The first day around 20 children arrived. It was a blessing to see them learn about the gifts of the spirit. My son got to play with the children. It was a blessing to start working for the Lord in Bolivia.

Vacation Bible School in Bolivia

Richard, the director of RedAdvenir (our new post in Bolivia), already had in mind what I was going to be doing so as soon as he saw me, he put me to work. There are a lot of productions waiting to be recorded and put on air. The people of Bolivia need the great message of Love.

My family and I were going to be living in the neighborhood close to the station, but a missionary couple from Denmark offered the house they were staying in so we didn't have to commute. What a blessing this is! We are living at the network compound for a few months, until the couple that lived here originally comeback from South Africa again! Please pray for the Lord to send funds for housing. There are a couple of houses on campus but all are full and there are more missionaries coming and no room for them to stay. The ministry here urgently needs housing! Without housing we can't have more missionaries and the station cannot run properly. Transportation is another great need! There is only one car here on campus for all the missionaries. To give you an idea of how bad it is- Uncle David had to make 3 trips with a sedan to take missionaries to the church. Each trip, he took anywhere from 8 to 13 people.

There are other exciting things happening here in Bolivia. The missionaries here are helping to finish building the little church
we are all attending to. We are happy to be here, we are happy to help, we are happy for the new experiences and miracles God will do in our lives here in Bolivia. We know that not everything is perfect when you serve the Lord. We are sure to encounter many challenges, but we are sure He will be with us. He has shown us how to depend on and trust in Him.

My first request of prayer is for all the missionaries not only here but all around the world. All have to face different challenges; all left the comfort of their home to serve the Lord. All have their own needs. My second prayers request would be for the needs here at Red Advenir, Though I mention 2, those are not the only ones.

Thank you for your prayers and support! May God bless you.

-Luis Jaen, Bolivia

**Areas of Need:**

1. Funds for constructing missionary housing
2. Car to transport missionaries

To learn more about Red ADVenir International, please click here.

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*To send to a specific project, please include the project in the memo line.

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