

Gate Breaker News Digest

Matthew 16:18 "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against



Ten for the Philippines

A dream turned into reality! It all started a few months ago with a question: how about using GBM to facilitate short-term missions?

After prayerful consideration, the Philippines was chosen as the first destination for a short-term mission, and Pastor Peter Mayyam of Lifeway Bible Church in La Trinidad, Philippines, was asked to help coordinate the ministry activities on that end.

The call went out to various churches for people to pray about the opportunity. A team of nine, plus myself, responded. They were assembled from three different churches.

Here was our team: Pastors Carey and Mark Schram came from Kellogg Christian Life Center in Kellogg, Idaho; Dan and

Mary Barnett, Jerry Cates, and P J McAtee came from Calvary Community Church in Camas, Washington; and Ally Foust, Mike Murach, and Alex Jones came with me from Capital Christian Center in Meridian, Idaho.

The team had a nice mixture of couples and singles, as well as younger and older ages. This mixture really helped in ability to minister to a broad variety of ages and life conditions. Dan and Mary Barnett brought their professional video camera equipment.

The short-term mission trip, including travel, lasted twelve days, from November 7 to 18. Our port of entry was Manila, Philippines. From there, we traveled about six hours to Baguio. We spent most of our nights in that location.

(Continued on page two)

The True Gift of Christmas

All the wonder of the Christmas holidays is around us. Some places have fresh white snow and glistening icicles. There are decorated trees, houses, and yards everywhere.

Favorite melodies fill our ears and our hearts with the magic and wonder of the season. Children send letters to the North Pole and then coun-

mas each year to see the real meaning inside. Often hidden by the stories of Santa and his reindeer and the glamorous commercialism of the age, the timeless message of the humble King of Heaven born to a Virgin in a manger in Bethlehem is the true reason for the season. It's the day of Jesus' birth that we celebrate.

He came down out of Glory to be born among us and make available to us the greatest gift of all time. Angels announced his birth to the shepherds saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy

Often hidden by the stories of Santa and his reindeer and the glamorous commercialism of the age, the timeless message of the humble King of Heaven born to a Virgin in a manger in Bethlehem is the true reason for the season.

that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David [Bethlehem] a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). As instructed by the angel, the shepherds sought out the babe

(Continued on page four)

sel parents as to their wishes. Classic movies such as "It's a Wonderful Life" knit our hearts to the heroic and sacrificial attitudes of the main characters.

We are glad that Ebenezer Scrooge and the Grinch get a change of heart and discover the spirit of giving. Although we hope our tree isn't like Charley Brown's, we recognize the peace that he found as something that we all need. There is a depth to the celebration of Christmas that no other time of the year creates. It is as though we are unraveling a great mystery each year.

Like the colorful wrapping paper that surrounds the precious gift inside, we peel back the sights and sounds of Christ-



The GBM Philippine mission team: From L - R: Mary Barnett, Ally Foust, P J McAtee, Jerry Cates, Stan Fleming, Mark Schram, Carey Schram, Mike Murach, Alex Jones, and Dan Barnett is on the ground in front. Taken near our lodging in Baguio.

Inside this issue:

Ten for the Philippines	1
True gift of Christmas	1
Reflecting on 2010	2
What's Up in 2011?	3
Ignatius of Antioch	3
Product sales	3
Contact Information	4

Ten for the Philippines (continued)

After some time of orientation meetings, we were ready for ministry. The ministry took place in three different provinces: La Union, Benguet, and Nueva Viscaya. We hosted three pastor seminars and a youth seminar, taught in several churches, and did street evangelism and outreach. The Filipino people were warm, friendly, and open to our ministry. On the streets, the team encountered people who quickly and gladly accepted bibles and tracts. Some prayed and asked the Lord Jesus into their lives.

The days were packed with ministry and there was a lot of it. In a word, the outcome was *awesome!*

The theme for the Pastor's seminar was *Touching the Greatness of God*. Specific topics included Great Faith, Stirring to Greatness, Ten Commandments of a Senior Pastor, Great Love, and Great Word. There were also numerous testimonies by the team and two dramas.

The follow up report from Pastor Peter Mayyam gives a glowing account. Here is some of what he wrote: "Thank you very much for coming and bringing the team for ministry here in our region and to the pastors and churches we are ministering to. I personally had a fresh encounter with God and am encouraged with the little things we are doing to help build and extend the kingdom of God in our area of ministry and calling."

Pastor Peter was overwhelmed with messages afterwards thanking him for the team's ministry. Here are some of the reports from various pastors:

- "Thank you very much is an understatement, but thank you very much for bringing Dr. Stan and the team to Solano. We are all spiritually encouraged and strengthened."
- "I have been in Solano for almost 13 years and this is the only time that pastors have responded almost from all denominations to come together for a seminar."
- "We have been empowered with the teachings of our visitors. The 15 pastors



A pastor seminar group and the team waving to Christians in America.

"Pastor Stan, of all the seminars that I have coordinated, this probably has been the largest or widest scope coverage represented - 12 provinces total. I am deeply humbled."

I brought had a great time. On the way home, we talked about the 10 commandments of the Senior Pastor.

- "The ministry has changed me. I was pretending that all is well, but God convicted me and revealed to me all the things that need to be adjusted in my life and family."
- Please extend our heart's deepest thanks to our missionaries that brought powerful and anointed teachings that blessed and encouraged the pastors and church workers in La Union."
- Thank you for the seminar we attended. For many years my priority was wrong and my family suffered and my children rebelled. Please pray for me as I ask forgiveness from my wife and children."
- "Thank you for bringing the anointed speakers."



Five of our team doing a the drama *Alive Again* at a pastor's conference.

People traveled from far distances and other provinces to attend the seminars. Pastor Peter wrote to me: "Pastor Stan, of all the seminars that I have coordinated, this probably has been the largest or widest scope coverage represented - 12 provinces total. I am deeply humbled."

By the end, the team was exhausted but very happy and excited about the awesomeness of the Lord Jesus. He had His perfect way in all of it. We all came home with a renewed sense of God's love for all people in all places. Thanks to the team for a great mission, and thanks to all of you who prayed and gave financially for this mission.

In the future, GBM will be planning other short-term missions. Let me know if you are interested in getting involved.

Reflecting on 2010

Wow, another year is almost gone! What a blessing it is to serve the Lord, knowing that our days are in His hands!

In review, here are some of the major activities of GBM in 2010.

- **International:** Five international trips with ministry in Ireland, France, Mexico, Kenya, and the Philippines. These trips included ministry in preaching, seminars, small groups, mentoring, missions, evangelism, prophetic ministry, and prayer.
- **Seminars:** Sixteen regional seminars in the Western United States. This included preaching and seminars at seven churches and seminars at nine Bible schools or church intern programs.
- **Preaching:** Six other preaching / teaching engagements at various churches or venues.
- **New Sewing Center:** We started a new GBM sewing center in Pakistan in June. These centers provide a Christian atmosphere and training for disadvantaged women in an Islamic dominated society.
- **Financial contributions:** Each month GBM supports three sewing centers in Pakistan. Also, there is monthly support of ministries, orphans, and widows in Pakistan and India. This year, donations were also given for Haiti relief, Interservice Christian Fellowship, Philippine ministries, etc.
- **Literature contributions:** GBM gave away approximately 90 GBM books, 250 Gospels of John, and 16 GBM DVD sets to people both in the U.S. and abroad.
- **News Digests:** Three GBM news digests were written, printed, mailed, and distributed via hard copy and electronic copy to over a thousand people each time.
- **Website:** The creation of a new Gate Breaker Ministry website now includes Mp3 sermon downloads, new products, video clips, photos, a blog, and guidelines for salvation. Visit www.gatebreakers.com
- **Darkness to Light:** A new GBM DVD on the occult was edited and produced. A big thanks goes to Dan Barnett of Doubleday Productions who produces all of GBM's DVDs as a ministry to bless GBM. Thanks, Dan.
- **Counseling:** One aspect of GBM ministry that is often behind the scenes is on-line counseling. I was recently in
(Continued on page three)



Jeepneys are a standard mode of transportation in the Philippines. Our team took them many times.

Reflecting on 2010
(continued)

correspondence with a woman who was involved in New Age / Occult. After numerous counseling emails, she came to know the saving peace that comes through Christ alone. Please pray for her as she gets grounded in the Lord and fights to know the truth.

- **Mentoring:** There is also the opportunity at times to speak into the lives of other ministries. Some of these look to GBM for a sense of apostolic leadership.

Thanks to all of you who financially partner with GBM. It is because of you that all of these things were possible in 2010.

There are individuals and churches who faithfully support this ministry every month. The apologetics ministry, the sewing centers, the mentoring, the donations, etc. would not be possible without it. Thank you so much. Also, thanks to all of you who pray for us. God hears your prayers. The Lord has used all of you to help the ministry of GBM, and we are very grateful. Please continue to give and pray as we take on the challenges of the new year.

God hears your prayers. The Lord has used all of you to help the ministry of GBM, and we are very grateful. Please continue to give and pray as we take on the challenges of the new year.

What's up in 2011?

Each year brings new opportunities and challenges. Some of the tentative opportunities in 2011 include the following:

People are raising funds for new sewing centers in Pakistan, so we could potentially be looking at an increase of centers and the positive impact on disadvantaged Christian (and Muslim) women.

One of the possible international destinations may be Peru next fall. I was recently asked to consider going there to speak at a pastor's conference. Also, there may be another opportunity to go to the Philippines. Kenya may become a regular target as I partner with Capital Christian Center's vision to establish a Bible college for pastors there.

GBM will prayerfully be considering one or two short-term mission opportunities. This would include assembling a team that feel drawn by the Lord. The destination or timing has not yet been determined.

Of course, there will be other seminars, meetings, news digests, mentoring opportunities, and a host of other ministry opportunities as the year progresses.

Please pray that the Lord will open numerous ministry doors and provide for every aspect of the ministry and its needs. Pray that in 2011 GBM will have the greatest impact so far.

Ignatius of Antioch

One of the most famous of the very early Christians was Ignatius of Antioch. He was one of the Apostolic Fathers; this was a group of Christian leaders who actually knew the Apostles or who were closely associated with their lives, teachings, traditions, and works. The time period of the Apostolic Fathers is primarily near the end of the first century and into the first half of the second century.

Ignatius lived from around 30 to 110 AD. He was also called Theophorus and was the third bishop of Antioch in Syria. We know little about him, but from his letters we can infer that he was converted to Christianity as an adult, though there is a myth that he was the child who sat on Jesus' lap (Matthew 18:2). Also, a tradition says he and Polycarp (another famous Apostolic Father) were both disciples of John.

It appears that Ignatius was well respected and endeared to many. He was condemned to death c. A.D. 110 under Emperor Trajan and brought to Rome with other condemned prisoners where he was most likely executed by wild animals in the amphitheater, though one theory is that he survived.

On his journey to Rome, he was allowed visits by local church members, to whom he then wrote letters. He wrote the following epistles to these churches: the Ephesians, Magnesians, Trallians, Romans, Philadelphians, Smyrnaeans, and an Epistle to Polycarp of Smyrna—seven in all. From Smyrna he wrote back to Ephesus, Magnesia, and Tralles and forward to Rome. From Troas he wrote back to Philadelphia, Smyrna and a personal letter to Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna.

Ignatius' letters were preserved by Polycarp's initiative and were well known with wide appeal in the early Church.

(Continued on page four)



Ignatius of Antioch
C. 30 - 110 AD

Books FOR SALE



Lasting Legacy: Discover the roots of Christian faith, the facts, legends, people, movements, and miracles from Christ to the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD.



Islam and New Global Realities: Know the current issues, history and doctrines of Islam. Learn what the Koran says about Jesus and how it can be used to share the Good News with Muslims.



Servants of the Third Watch is based on a prophetic vision that the Lord gave me about the modern Church. What is the midnight hour of the Church? It may be closer than you think.



Gate Breakers is now in two volumes. Book One equips Christians regarding cults, and Book Two deals with world religions and the occult.



These are great, easy-to-read resource books for individual or group studies. You don't have to be an expert to teach from these. A perfect gift for pastors and students of Christianity.

Book One is also available in Spanish.

BOOK ORDERING:

- **On-line:** Order and pay for books at Gatebreakers.com
- **Price:** \$12.00 each. \$3.50 shipping for one book. Add .50 cents for each additional book. Contact GBM for discount on orders of five or more.
- **Direct order:** Make checks payable to Gate Breaker Ministries. Send to: 2508 S. Abaco Way, Meridian, ID 83642. Please specify which books you are ordering.

DVDs FOR SALE

History of the Early Church: Five hours of teaching, including full power point. Learn about what happened to the apostles, how the New Testament was formed, and much, much more. Perfect for church groups or individuals. It includes notes. \$30.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Worship and Prophecy Seminar: Four hours of teaching: The Thirst, The Rain, The Well, & The River. Get washed in the Spirit. \$25.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Darkness to Light - Exposing the Occult: Dr. Fleming shares at a youth event on the dangers of the occult. This video includes his own personal testimony. \$8.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Send check with request to GBM.

Ignatius of Antioch

His letter to the Roman Christians shows the early Church zeal for martyrdom as he implores them not to intrude: "I am afraid that your affection for me may do me harm. . . Let me be given to the wild beasts, for by their means I can attain to God. I am God's wheat and I am being ground by the teeth of the beasts so that I may appear as pure bread."

He felt martyrdom was necessary for him to become a true disciple. We must be careful not to judge Ignatius for this desire through our modern Christian mindset that often identifies victory equal with eluding the proposed execution. He was close to the time of Christ, and like many others, he was impassioned—if need be—to suffer the ultimate sacrifice! It should also be remembered that he did not give himself up but was found and arrested. He did not try to be the martyr but was only too willing when he was arrested and brought before Caesar.

Ignatius' letters show his knowledge of the Pauline epistles. The importance of this for modern Christians is that it shows that Paul's epistles were (1) considered Scripture by the Apostolic Fathers, and (2) that they were written in the First century. Some modern day critics contend that all of the New Testament books were written later, in the second and third centuries. This is not true and is not in accordance with the actual testimony and writings of the Apostolic Fathers.

Ignatius attacked the heretical influence of both Judaism and Docetism upon Christianity. The Greek word *δοκέω* means "I seem" [to be something I am not]. Docetists taught that the humanity and sufferings of Christ were illusion and not real. Against Judaizers Ignatius says, "For if we are still living according to Judaism to this day, then we are admitting that we have not received grace." He adamantly refuted the legalism of keeping the Jewish Sabbath, and said that the apostles made "the Lord's day the center of their lives."

It is obvious by the writings of Ignatius, other early Church Fathers, and the New Testament epistles of Paul that Sunday immediately became the center of the early Church worship activities. Ignatius took on the Judaizers who still tried to bind Christians under "the Law" of keeping the Jewish Sabbath. This should be a caution to some today who try impose a Sabbath law on Christians.

Many other things can be seen in his letters as well. He is the first to use the words "catholic Church." The word catholic at that time simply meant universal church.

Contact Information

Dr. Stan Fleming, Gate Breaker Ministries,
2508 S. Abaco Way, Meridian, Idaho 83642

Website: Gatebreakers.com

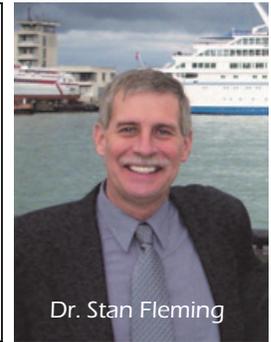
Email: sfleming@ gatebreakers.com

Cell Phone: (208) 290-4007

Questions: For inquiries regarding articles and topics of interest, please email me.

Prayer requests: Send us your need and we will prayer for it.

Board Members: Cary Chrisman, Stan Fleming, Ron Hamel, Larry Starke



Dr. Stan Fleming

It included the people of God from all times.

He alluded to himself as an apostle. This shows the concept that others, besides the twelve, considered themselves ordained apostles, appointed by God. This is important in recognizing the continuing role of the five-fold ministry as Paul gives it in Ephesians 4:11 - apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists.

Today, there is a theological debate as to whether Christ actually ascended into death (hell) and preached (see 1 Peter 3:19; 4:6). Ignatius says He did! He wrote that "even after his resurrection he [Christ] was in a physical body." This not only targets former Docetism but also the modern Jehovah's Witness doctrine which claims Christ did not rise bodily from the grave. There were also Trinitarian concepts "in the Son and Father and Spirit."¹

We also see a possible early Christian hymn with a Christology embracing both the manhood and divinity of Christ. Consider the power of these words:

Both of Flesh and Spirit;
Both made and not made;
God existing in flesh;
True Life in Death;
Both of Mary and of God;
First possible and then impossible,
Even Jesus Christ our Lord.²

Today, we owe a lot to the Apostolic Fathers. They did not know that we would look back at their writings as confirmation of the activities and doctrines of early Christianity. They lived and often died as martyrs for Christ. Their lives were a testimony of Christ's love for all mankind and of His victory over death. Thanks to them, we have a wonderful legacy of Christianity from the early Church.

Endnotes

1. Ignatius: See his epistles: Magnesians 9, 13; Trallians 4; and Philipppians 3, 8.

2. A compilation of thought from Early Christian Writings, trans. Maxwell Staniforth, (London: Penguin Books, 1987 63, and Ante-Nicene Fathers, vol. 1, 52.

The True Gift of Christmas (continued)



wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger who had miraculously been born to a Virgin named Mary. They honored Him as Christ the Savior. The Wise men of the east also sought Him out and gave Him the precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Interestingly, these gifts symbolically represent Christ's unique ministry to us. The gold is symbolic of Kingship and Kingdom Glory. Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16). The frankincense is symbolic of the fragrant prayers and intercession. Jesus is our intercessor to the Father and constantly prays for people to know the truth (Heb. 7:25). The myrrh is symbolic of fragrant suffering. Jesus suffered on the cross, not because of his sin, but because of ours. He was the perfect sacrifice who willingly took our place (Isaiah. 53).

The Bible says that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). He came for everyone, from the least to the greatest. He came for the lowly, the broken-hearted, the lonely, the hurting, and the needy. He came for any who want Him. He loves everyone and offers His gift of eternal life to all, but He will not force anyone to take it. A gift is not only given, it must also be accepted.

Have you accepted Jesus Christ into your heart? If not, then pray to Him and ask Him to reveal to you the true meaning of Christmas this year. As He does, let Him know with all of your heart that you want Him and all that He has to give you. He is willing and desirous to give everyone the greatest gift of all time (2nd Peter 3:9; 1st Timothy 2:3-4).

As you celebrate Christmas this year, remember the true reason for the season. Beneath all of the glitter and gold is the wonderful news that Jesus Christ loves you. He came into the world so that you can have the best gift in all of eternity, and that is eternity itself, eternity with Jesus the Savior.