

THE VINE

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Winter 2008

Behind the Scenes *by Jen Clarke*

White Fields church planters are in the front lines, bringing the Gospel to a dark and fallen world. In nearly every report, these church planters mention their thankfulness for the prayers of the saints. However, due to the many native languages of the church planters, people would not be able to pray for them if it were not for our translators. We are grateful for these volunteers and their efforts so that we can effectively pray for the men and their ministries. Highlighted in this edition of The Vine are some of White Fields translators:

Pray without ceasing.

We have the privilege of interceding on behalf of national church planters.



Nobuo Honda has been translating reports for Japanese church planters for nearly 18 years. He also currently works part-time for The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM). Nobuo says, "I work for TEAM four days a week which allows me to translate reports for White Fields on Wednesdays and over the weekend. It usually takes me a week to translate the reports." Nobuo comments further that translating the reports is "an extreme blessing." Nobuo and his wife Setsuko have three sons, all of whom are married. They are the proud grandparents of five.

"finally, BROTHERS, PRAY FOR US THAT THE MESSAGE OF THE LORD MAY SPREAD RAPIDLY AND BE HONORED, JUST AS IT WAS WITH YOU." 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1



Thawng Nei Bil is the senior translator of church planter reports in Myanmar. Thawng has been serving as translator since White Fields embraced Myanmar in 2001. Now he has two men who assist him in the translation work: Reverend John Ngun San Luai and Stephen Van Biak Ceu. Reverend Luai has been with us since 2006. He and his wife have three sons and he serves as the senior pastor of Pyin Oo Lwin. He also serves as part-time lecturer at Myanmar Bible Seminary in Yangon. Stephen has been translating reports since 2005 and serves as director of Literature ministry for Insein Biblical Presbyterian Church Assembly and its denomination. Thawng is married to Lal Hming Mawi and they have three sons and two daughters. Not only does Thawng serve the Lord as overseer for White Fields

church planters, he also serves as general secretary of the Biblical Presbyterian Church Assembly, is the senior pastor of Insein Biblical Presbyterian church in Yangon, and is a part-time lecturer of Yangon Bible Institute of Myanmar.

Look on the fields... they are white for harvest." John 4:35

WHITE FIELDS SPECIALIZES IN PROVIDING COLLABORATIVE START-UP SUPPORT TO PASTORS PLANTING LOCAL CHURCHES AMONG THEIR OWN PEOPLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.



There are three gifted ladies who translate the Brazilian church planters' reports: Rita de Cássia Pereira Guimarães, Edna Evans and Carolyn Grove-Seely.



Rita de Cássia Pereira Guimarães is a member of Pastor Acácio Alencar's church in Taubaté, São Paulo, Brazil. Pastor Acácio told Rita about White Fields and asked her if she would help translate reports. She has been volunteering her time for over one year. Rita used to teach English and is now employed as a psychologist at a penitentiary.



Edna Evans and her husband Erwin lived in Brazil for 35 years and served the Lord there as missionaries. They have five sons and seven grandchildren. Two sons still live in Brazil. Edna states, "When my husband and I retired in 2002, I was looking for something to do that was connected with Brazil. My son, Tim, asked me if I would be interested in translating letters from Portuguese to English for White Fields. I was anxious to do this and enjoy serving in this way. I love reading the letters and praying for these missionaries as I translate." Edna and Erwin now reside outside Winston Salem, N.C.



Carolyn Grove-Seely and her late husband, Leslie Grove, began working with White Fields more than 30 years ago while serving with TEAM in Brazil. Leslie translated monthly reports for many years and into retirement. In 2003, while serving as interpreters for White Fields, God unexpectedly called Leslie home. Since then Carolyn says, "It has been my joy to take over translating the pastors' monthly reports. I count it a privilege to be able to have a part in this ministry." Carolyn is now remarried to Art Seely, and together they have nine married children, 25 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Carolyn and Art make their home in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

"AND PRAY FOR US, TOO, THAT GOD MAY OPEN A DOOR FOR OUR MESSAGE, SO THAT WE MAY PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST, FOR WHICH I AM IN CHAINS."

COLOSSIANS 4:3



Ruslan Goryainov has been translating the Russian pastors' reports since his graduation from Samara Theological Seminary in May of 2005. He currently translates different materials such as articles, books and teachers' syllabi for the seminary. Ruslan and his wife Marina live 500 kilometers outside Samara. They are blessed with two sons and one daughter.



Elma Ordiales translated and edited her first report back in 1992. She recalls typing the reports on an old, dilapidated typewriter that she would sometimes have to shake in order for it to work. Now, with computers and email, her load has lightened. Elma states, "I thank the Lord for making me a part of this ministry. My exposure to the places where these men work gives me awareness and a realization that they are very efficient and effective in their areas." In the past, Elma's three daughters would help out, but she now has an assistant, Carmela Mercene. Carmela is a fifth-grade English teacher at the school that Elma and her husband Pastor Leo run in Pasay City, outside of metro Manila, Philippines. Elma and Pastor Leo also have one son.

Throughout God's Word we are entreated to pray for one another—to pray without ceasing. Because of the diligence of our translators, we are able to lift up the requests of our beloved church planters. Would you join us in praying for them? Pray that they may bring the light of Jesus Christ into their parts of the world for the glory of God.

Rich in Christ

With the stock market and global economy in turmoil, we may find ourselves shifting our focus from Christ to worldly matters. We are reminded through the prayer reports of our church planters that our perspective should be influenced by the knowledge of our Lord. Pastor Thang in Matupi, Myanmar wrote in a recent prayer report:

"I am serving among poor, undeveloped people who are living in rural villages. Though my field is difficult, I praise and thank God that some of these poor people have now become rich in Christ through your prayer help. One of my members, Mr. Aung said, 'Though I am poor physically, I am rich spiritually. I don't care about famine because I clearly know that God is in control. He feeds the birds and animals; He also will feed us because we are His sheep.'"



These dear Christians rely on God to provide their daily sustenance. Even more thrilling is that they have the right perspective regarding physical possessions—to be rich in Jesus Christ is more valuable than physical wealth. This is why our financial support to these church planters among poor communities is so valuable. It produces eternal treasures to be stored up in heaven. Won't you join us by sending a gift today? You may give online at www.whitefields.org

Rejoice with Heaven



"IN THE SAME WAY, I TELL YOU, THERE IS JOY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS OF GOD OVER ONE SINNER WHO REPENTS." LUKE 15:10

We have added a new feature to our homepage that will allow you to rejoice with heaven when a sinner is born again. Every week we update the testimonies of new believers who have received the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministries of White Fields church planters. We hope you will find these testimonies encouraging and that you will pray for the strengthening of their faith.

To read these testimonies or to pray for the needs of all our church planters using the Prayer Facts, visit our website at www.whitefields.org

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