



# THE CHURCH PLANTER

Autumn

A Newsletter of Church Planting International

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*CPI, 5186 Cressingham Dr, Ft. Mill, SC 29707, (419) 353-7437, www.ChurchPlantingInternational.com*

## CPI's Summer Teams

Three CPI teams went to the mission field this past June and July. First, the Christian Covenant Community team from Orangeville, Pennsylvania (21 people), served in Pucallpa and Lima, Peru (June 16-24). Then 33 people, mostly from Ohio at Christ's Church in Bowling Green, continued with the mission in Pucallpa and Lima (June 24-July 2). Finally, a team of 11, mostly from the Zion Church of Millersville, Pennsylvania, served in Tepic, Mexico (July 20-29). Here are some of the highlights:

- The three teams ministered in 17 Peruvian and Mexican communities including 8 Indian villages. One team spent a week living in a Shipibo village in the Peruvian Amazon. Both Peruvian teams took long river trips to other villages. The Mexican team traveled to a Huichol village and served in a children's home.
- 6 work projects were conducted to aid churches in construction projects.
- 5 medical clinics and 5 eye glass clinics were conducted reaching over 750 people.
- 18 children's outreaches were held for about 1,500 kids and 4 women's ministries for about 175 women.
- Food was distributed to the needy. A motor taxi and generator were purchased. Team members also committed to supporting a native Shipibo church planter to an unreached area in Peru.
- Team members participated in a leadership seminar, numerous church services, evangelistic outreaches, and gave testimonies, dramas, musical numbers, and messages.



## We have moved!

**Our new address is:**

**Church Planting International  
5186 Cressingham Drive  
Fort Mill, SC 29707**

We believe that this move will be good for both our family and mission. By downsizing to a smaller home we can devote more attention to the ministry. Our daughters, son-in-law, and grandson live nearby and another son is in Atlanta. We are so thankful to the Lord for opening this door. We look forward to continuing CPI's mission from our new base in South Carolina (near Charlotte). You are welcome to come and visit us any time! -- Steven & Christy Shepard





***Pictured above are five Yaminahuas who were baptized*** during Cesar Soto's recent 3-week visit. Cesar taught the Word and helped to supervise new church constructions for the Yami villages of Dorado and Belen in the Peruvian Amazon. Jess Shingler, Gary Schmidt, and Steven Shepard were also with the Yaminahua tribe this past June. The baptism was actually conducted by Alfonso Perez who is one of the Bible school students that CPI sponsors in the jungle city of Pucallpa. CPI sponsors a number of potential leaders from different tribes to receive Bible training in the jungle city. Please pray for these new Yami churches and for others to be planted.



**Join with us to  
take the  
Gospel to the  
unreached!**

*All gifts to CPI are tax deductible.*

# The Narrow Way

Article by Steven Shepard

*“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14 (NASV)*

Jesus speaks of two gates and two ways, one that leads to life and the other that leads to destruction.

By life Jesus means union with God, a life we can enter into now and have forever. Jesus Himself is the narrow gate and the **only** gate that leads to life. This is so because Jesus alone died for our sins. This sacrifice was necessary because God is infinitely holy and just, and cannot ignore our wrong doings as if they do not matter. Romans 2:6 says He “will render to each person according to his deeds.” Romans 6:23 adds “the wages of sin *is* death.” When Jesus died on the cross He suffered, as our substitute, the punishment that we deserved in order to satisfy the perfect justice of God. In Christ our sins are forgiven; our debt is cancelled, our guilt is gone, and we enter into life. We cannot enter by any of our own works, philosophies, self-help techniques, mystical experiences, or human religions. We can only enter the narrow gate by putting our trust in Christ and what He did on the cross.

After we go through the narrow gate, we must then continue on the narrow way. We don't go through the narrow gate only to live a self focused life. Entering through the narrow gate produces a deep change within which enables us to follow Jesus. We become willing to give up the things that compete with Christ for our affections or that take the place of Christ as the guiding principle for our decisions. We choose Jesus over ourselves. This is the narrow way. It is a difficult way. Jesus said there are few who find it.

The wide gate and the broad way is anything that is not Christ. It is the way of dependence upon human effort, works, and performance. Our text says that this way leads to destruction. Destruction means to be on this earth without God and then to continue into eternity and receive conscious and eternal punishment for every sin committed in this life. Jesus said that there are **many** who travel this road. This is in fact the default highway. It is the easy way. To travel on this road you don't need to change a thing. Believe anything you want and do whatever you wish and you will stay on the broad road.

On the other hand, the narrow way is a very specific yet difficult path that requires you to completely change your direction in order to find it. But this path leads to life as God meant it to be - characterized by freedom, peace, joy, and love. And when you walk this path you will not walk alone. Jesus walks with you, carrying your burdens and protecting you until you arrive in His eternal Kingdom.

The fact is that most people are not walking on the narrow way that leads to life but on the broad way which leads to destruction. They spend their days pursuing their own comforts, pleasures, and desires, or in just trying to survive a little while longer. They even hear some who say, “There are many ways to God; God will never execute justice for your misdeeds. There is in fact no hell.” But Jesus did not teach that there are many ways **but only one narrow way**. To believe this is an offense in today's world and even in many so-called Christian circles. They will call you intolerant, narrow minded, unfair, and even arrogant. Yet it requires a humbling of yourself, a giving up of your own way, to walk the narrow way.

If God had provided many ways to know Him, we could embrace and proclaim them all. The fact that He chose only one gate and one way does not make God unjust. Instead God is astonishingly merciful that He chose to give us, who deserved none, even one way. That way is His Son, Jesus, who died on a cross and rose again. To Him alone we must be loyal and Him alone we must proclaim!

**Scriptural support:** John 3:17-18, 36; 8:24; 10:9; 14:6; 20:31; Acts 4:12; 1 John 2:23; 5:12-13; 1 Tim 2:5; Rev 1:18