



THE CHURCH PLANTER

A newsletter of Church Planting International

Autumn 2021

Ministry Fruitful Despite Trip Cancellation

– by Steven Shepard

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions CPI had to cancel the mission trip scheduled for November to Uganda. Even still, the Lord enabled us to carry on much fruitful ministry. With funds raised for the mission, CPI was able to provide over 110 Bibles in three Ugandan languages, fund construction of two church buildings, and provide tuition and living expenses for a young Ugandan Bible school student.

CPI also planned a two-day pastors’ conference in west Uganda which I assumed would have to be cancelled. Then I received this message from a co-worker: *“We were ready for a two-day pastors’ conference. How do you see it if you can allow us to continue with that conference in your absence? This could be the awakening and encouraging of the pastors. Lockdown has been a long period of time; the pastors need spiritual refreshment.”* The conference is now scheduled for December 9-10, with our co-workers as speakers. Amazingly, we were able to still send 150 books, which were taken to Uganda by two of our team members that decided to still go.

We thank the Lord for all the work being done. But this does not take the place of being with our Ugandan brothers and sisters. God always pours out His love in a special way when the diverse members of His body serve together in the unity of the Spirit.

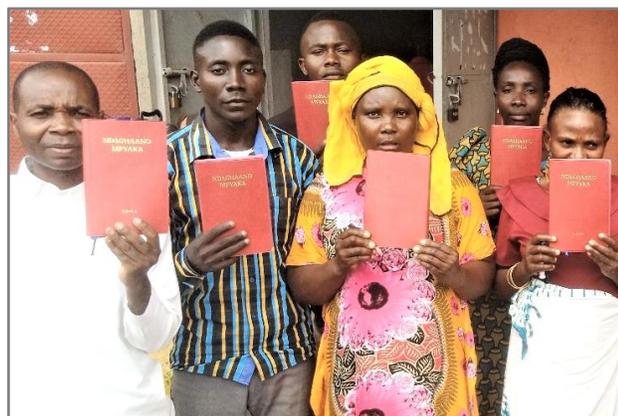
Indigenous Missions Advancing in Peru

CPI believes in furthering *indigenous missions* – missions that are not dependent on outsiders, but are carried out by the local people of each community. CPI’s role is to provide training, counsel and strategic resources in a way that does not encourage unhealthy dependency.

In October, native missionaries Cesar and Isabel Soto went by small plane to a remote Amazon jungle village to visit the Yaminahuas. The Yamis are one of four Amazon tribes CPI has targeted for church planting. Cesar and Isabel visited homes, held services, worked with children, and encouraged potential church leaders. While there is a core group of Yamis that meets in the village, the work is still not well-established and needs prayer.

In November, Peruvian co-workers conducted classes for our students at CPI’s Bible Institute in Pucallpa with Lima pastors Otoniel and Jose Luis, and CPI missionary Casey Kidd as teachers. Over 20 students from three tribal groups and about eight villages attended. CPI provided meals, notebooks, and some travel expenses.

Word of Grace students also continue to plant churches in six Shipibo villages along the Ucayali River. CPI provides travel expenses for jungle church planters, along with roofing and other materials for church structures.



Above: Bread of Life Church members receive Bibles in the Lubwisi language of Uganda

Below: Construction of large church building in west Uganda using poles and “iron sheets.”



Above: Students in a session at CPI’s Word of Grace Bible Institute, November 10, 2021

Below: Bible Institute teachers from left are Casey Kidd, Otoniel Pardo and José Luis Bermudez



Nourished in the Wilderness

By Dean Davis

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she may be nourished for 1,260 days. (Revelation 12:6)

Every hiker, every pilot, and every ship's captain needs his instruments. They are crucial equipment for knowing one's location, getting one's bearings, and reaching one's destination. That's why I love Revelation 12. It is crucial equipment for the Church. It gives her a *precious paradigm for a pilgrim people*.

A *paradigm* is like a pair of glasses. It's a set of concepts through which we can view the world. Using images drawn from the Old Testament, Revelation 12 gives us a paradigm, a precious way of looking at the Christian life.

Consider the symbols involved. The Woman is the Church, the Mother and the Bride of Christ (12:1-2). Her Son (and her Husband) is the Lord Jesus Christ, now the High King of Heaven. The Dragon is the devil, a defeated enemy who chases and persecutes the woman (12:3-6). And the wilderness is this evil world-system, through which the Woman must pass on her journey to the Promised Land: the new heavens and the new earth.



Dean and his wife Linda reside in Santa Rosa, California and are long-time partners of CPI. Dean, a retired pastor, has authored several excellent Christian books. Find out more about Dean's ministry at: www.clr4u.org.

This paradigm opens up our text, which gives us a great promise. For just as God nourished Elijah in the wilderness for 1,260 days (1 Kings 17), so too *God promises to nourish his Church until her difficult pilgrimage is complete*.

How does He do this? Above all, He does it in our quiet times when He speaks to us through His Word and moves us to pray in His Spirit. But He also does it in the assembly of the saints, the preaching of the Word, the ordinances of the Church, and the ministries to which we are called.

Why does he do this? He does it so we can know who we are in Christ, and in that knowledge overcome the accuser of the brethren (12:7-12); so that we will remain eager to share our faith, thereby giving birth to the rest of the Lord's offspring (12:17); and so that our face will always be turned towards Christ and the Promised Land.

Pilgrim, receive this his precious paradigm, stay strong, and rejoice! You're almost home!



Left: CPI co-workers, Richard and Silvia, have planted churches in two rural villages in eastern Uganda, where there were no churches. Richard has walked eight miles from his home to the church in Nakate. In September, thanks to CPI donors, a motorbike was provided for Richard.

Right: Church structure in the rural community of Nakate made in the Ugandan style, using poles and "iron sheets." Materials for the church were provided through funds raised for the Ugandan mission trip, which was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.



**END OF YEAR GIVING WILL
HELP CPI TO PLANT
CHURCHES AND MINISTER
TO THE NEEDIEST OF PERU,
UGANDA, MEXICO AND
MYANMAR.**

