

TENTMAKER NEWS

Spring, 1990

VOL. 3 - NO. 1



SOUTHLAND BIBLE CHURCH - The congregation of Southland Bible Church will soon be moving into its newly completed auditorium in St. George, Utah. TBM missionaries, Tim and Joy Miles, began this work only four and one-half years ago. Tim is the pastor of the church. The building is located on the east edge of St. George on the north side of I-15.

Construction Site Attracts Crowd

Another car pulls up to the building site of the Southland Bible Church. The people get out and start asking questions. By now the questions are familiar. "Do you really need a building this big?" "Do you have that many people?" "Where are your people coming from...from here in St. George?"

It happened every day, three or four times a day, during the construction of the new church building. Simply put, these curious visitors just could not believe that a non-Mormon church would be reaching enough people to need this kind of building. Neither could they believe that this lovely new building would dominate the skyline on the outskirts of town.

... See Construction P. 3

St. George Building Nears Completion

"We have gone from zero visibility and recognition in the community to extremely high visibility. Everybody knows where 'that' church is. We now have an identity and sense of permanence in the community."

That, according to Pastor Tim Miles of Southland Bible Church, has helped immeasurably in developing this relatively new TBM church in St. George into a growing and vibrant ministry in this predominantly Mormon community of Southern Utah.

"We had an immediate response," Tim recalls. "In the beginning of our first building program, two years ago, we had 16 people (attending services) if everyone was there. By the end of the building program we had 40 people. In the next year and a half we went from 40 to 80 people, and during this present building program we've gone from 80 to 100 people. So the building program has played a key role. During these years we've seen several Mormons trust the Lord. We've also had many non-Mormons, who were unsaved and felt alone here, come to church and find, not only friendship, but Christ as their Saviour."

This church, begun in September of 1985 by Tim and Joy Miles, met for the first 2 1/2 years in a hotel prior to its first building program in 1988. The newest addition (phase-two) should be completed and ready for use by early May.

In addition to Lord's Day services, the church also conducts two ladies' Bible studies, a men's Bible study, kid's club, youth activities, a youth Bible study, and a camping program. TBM missionaries Scot and Rita Moeckel assist in the St. George ministry through children, youth, and music ministries.

In what ways did God provide funds for the current building program? Tim remembers well. "In March

... See St. George P. 3

of Alto. Please pray for the Manion family as they adjust to life in Michigan and seek to raise the balance of their monthly support. Pray for Dick as he assumes his responsibilities with Tentmakers Bible Mission.

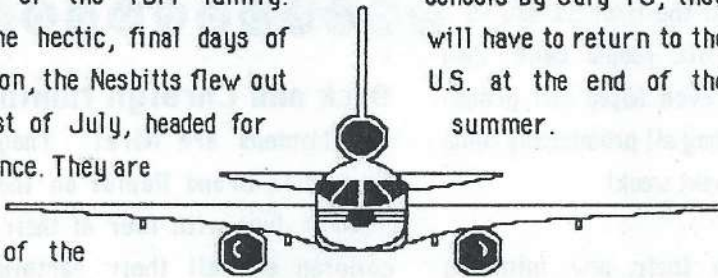
Steve & Brenda Nesbitt

This eager young couple with their two young children, Stephanie (4) and Daniel (1), are also new members of the TBM family. After some hectic, final days of preparation, the Nesbitts flew out on the 1st of July, headed for Lille, France. They are

serving as part of the Eurocorp summer

evangelistic program and will participate in its follow-up during the month of August. Steve and Brenda are very fluent in the French language and will be a great asset to the team of missionaries serving there in France. This work is similar to what they have done in the past. Their hearts' desire is to remain in France on a full-time basis, serving God in the capacity of church planting. There are currently no evangelical churches in Lille or any of the surrounding towns.

The duration of their stay however, is dependant on their financial support. They are awaiting word from the Kansas City Public Schools regarding an extension project Steve can do for them in France as his "tentmaking" job. This seems to be the only way the Nesbitts would be able to remain in France after August, short of receiving full support. Without a firm committment from the schools by July 15, they will have to return to the U.S. at the end of the summer.



Please pray regarding the financial needs of the Nesbitts as well as their future in France. Pray also that this will be a profitable summer for the Lord's work in France and that many lives will be touched and people saved through the service of Steve and Brenda.

Bill and Gail Marietta

Early this month, the Mariettas moved to Pharr, Texas, from their home in LaGrange, Wyoming. Pharr is located roughly nine miles from the border of Mexico in the eastern part of Texas. They desire to have a church planting

ministry among Spanish speaking people.

The Lord has provided them with good opportunities to prepare for this ministry. They spent six months in Bolivia recently, learning the Spanish language. They were filling in for missionaries who were on furlough and had plenty of opportunities to learn Spanish from the Bolivian people they worked with and ministered to. Since that time they have been in contact with RGBI, who they believe will give them names of radio listeners in Mexico.

Praise God for the encouragements they received prior to their move. They were able to spend time with family, and Bill had a lot of painting jobs that enabled them to pay bills. They also had an opportunity to present their ministry and to preach each Sunday.

Please pray for them as they begin this church planting ministry. They need direction in finding the right place to start a church. Also, pray that peoples' hearts and minds will be open and receptive as they begin following up the names of radio listeners.

St. George (continued from P. 1)

of 1989 we knew we were going to be building again. Our people set \$20,000 as a goal for the congregation, which they reached in November. We knew we would still be short \$35,000. So we prayed that the Lord would supply that, which He did in December from outside sources."

God also provided willing workers. Grand Rapids TBM board members, Keith Clinton and Lew Buffinga, were joined by George Groenink, also from Michigan, to

help in the construction of the new building. They have been assisted by men from the congregation, including Tom Folks, Bill Shoppee, Bob DeHart, Mel Ashcroft, Ted Kendall and Scot Moeckel. Lew Buffinga has served as general contractor.

Tim reports that enthusiasm remains high with visitors attending every week, adding, "We just can't wait to be in our new building."

Construction (continued from P. 1)

One Mormon young person, who had just returned from a two-year mission for the LDS church, drove up, took a long look at the construction project and said with amazement, "I never thought this would happen here in St. George. I just can't believe it."

Now that the building is finished on the outside, this kind of daily visitor has tapered off. What the church is now experiencing is more people on Sunday morning. "Now, they're coming inside," said Pastor Tim Miles. "We're getting, it seems, three or four families a week that are coming as visitors."

Latin Ministries (continued from P. 2)

Mexico, for example, a national can live on as little as \$250-\$300 per month, by adopting the living standards of the people. TBM will seek to raise approximately half that amount for each missionary sent out under the new program.

Please pray for the TBM Board of Directors as they begin interviewing prospective missionary candidates for this new outreach opportunity.

