

# His Word for His World



**HERALD  
OF TRUTH**  
His Word for His World. Every Day.™

The Newsletter of Herald of Truth  
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## From the Field: by Steve Ridgell

**T**im Archer and Steve Ridgell traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to meet with **Rigoberto Vargas**, local coordinator for the nationwide television program we sponsored last year. The local churches were so encouraged by the success of the program that they have agreed to continue sponsoring it themselves. Tim and Steve also met with a number of preachers who handled the follow-up. It was good to hear from them personally the stories of visitors and those in continuing Bible studies. Meetings were also held with **Howard Norton** of the **Baxter Institute of Biblical Studies** since many of their students have been utilized in this project.

literature distribution. Local churches conduct follow-up studies and Bible distribution. This same pattern will be followed this year.

The Herald of Truth ministry team continues to book and conduct seminars around the country training churches to share the story of Jesus, engage our culture, and live as salt in this world. Steve recently conducted the *Sharing Our Story* seminar at the **Griffin Road Church of Christ** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The week after he was there, a contact from the evangelistic website, [www.hopeforlife.org](http://www.hopeforlife.org), expressed an interest in perhaps becoming involved with a church. She was about to move to Fort Lauderdale. When contacted by our response department, the Griffin Road brethren immediately initiated conversation with this respondent.

The common theme to all of these reports is the partnership with local congregations in planning, in ministry, and in conducting follow-up. Herald of Truth values its partnership with brothers and sisters and with local congregations around the country and around the world. Together we are changing lives forever.



**Bill Brant**, Tim Archer, and Steve Ridgell were in Cuba to celebrate the fifteen year association between **Tony Fernandez**, the **Matanzas Church of Christ**, and **Herald of Truth**. It was an exciting time of reviewing the great things God has done. They also attended the Men's Conference in Havana. Bill, Tim, and

Steve all spoke during this meeting of 300 preachers and leaders of the church in Cuba.



**Moses Khombe Banda** of the Area 47 Church of Christ in Lilongwe, Malawi is coordinating a summer project in the Chichewa speaking areas of Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia. He will be working closely with **Chris Banda**, local

preacher for the **Mpezeni Park Church of Christ** in Chipata, Zambia. Herald of Truth teams from these two congregations will be conducting follow-up events in campaign areas from last year and also planting churches in new areas. Last year was a very successful campaign centered around the showing of movies about Jesus in local parks in conjunction with preaching and



# Strangers and Foreigners, *No More*

by Bill Brant

I know what they felt like:

I understand how Abraham felt when he said “I am a foreigner and a visitor among you” in Gen 23:4.

I have experienced the loneliness that is expressed by Moses when he names his first born, “I have been a stranger in a foreign land” in Exodus 2:22.

I know what it’s like to travel to someplace for the first time, not speaking the language, not understanding the customs, not recognizing the sign for the bathrooms, being alone.

I have been a stranger in a foreign land.

I know those feelings, that dread, fear, because that’s how I felt when I went to Cuba for the first time two years ago.

Let me tell you about that first trip:

The flight was 3 hours late, arriving at 12:30 in the morning. After going through customs and immigration we stepped out-



side and saw Tony Fernandez, who had been Herald of Truth’s representative in that island nation for 14 years, waiting for us. I recognized him from pictures taken by my colleagues Tim Archer and Steve Ridgell on their previous visits.

After a very short night’s sleep in Havana, the trip to Matanzas, about two hours northeast, is somewhat of a blur only highlighted by the people we met: **Ammiel Perez** who is the minister of the Havana Church, some radio listeners who had learned about Jesus from Tim’s daily program, the men who were rebuilding an old city bus to be used to pick up members of the congregation living in the surrounding country side, the visit to the farm where food is grown to give to church members, and meeting Tony’s wife **Ludmilla** and his young daughter **Suzanna**.

Then we went to the church building. I had seen it in pictures, but being there reminded me that a courtyard of a home with a corrugated sheet metal roof is just as holy as any building we have in the United States. Suddenly, I felt at home. I sat

down and just thought about all that God had done there. And that tomorrow, Sunday, I would worship here.

I was both anxious and eager that Sunday morning as Tony drove us the 20 minutes from our hotel in Varadero back to Matanzas. The closer we got the more anxious and less eager I got. How would they greet me, an old white haired Yankee?

That morning I was the last of our group to enter. I, the stranger in a foreign land, was greeted with smiles, hugs, kisses; I was a distant relative returning home. It didn’t matter that all I could say was “halo”, “gracias”; it didn’t matter that I was different.

I had felt like Abraham and Moses, a stranger in a foreign land, but I was and am family.

It’s the same thing that the apostle Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:19-22.

*Now, Therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

They and I are no longer strangers or foreigners. And while we live far apart, we are family! We are part of the household of God. We are brothers and sisters because of Jesus.

This last March I again traveled back to Matanzas and again worshipped with my Cuban church family. We were united physically and spiritually.

And I thanked them for welcoming me home.



# Magdalys

by Tim Archer

I first met **Magdalys** in 2008 on a Sunday at the Versalles church of Christ in Matanzas, Cuba. I preached on Mark 2:1-11, Jesus healing a paralytic. I stressed how Jesus forgave the man's sins before healing his paralysis. In the lesson, I talked about how the emphasis was on the healing from sin more than physical healing.

After the sermon, a woman in a wheelchair was brought forward to be baptized. This was Magdalys. I can remember her baptism; me standing in the water, waiting as someone lifted her over the side of the baptistry and placed her in my arms. I had never baptized anyone in this way, carrying her throughout the process, then handing her back out to waiting friends.



Steve Ridgell took a picture of Magdalys shortly after her baptism. The

look on her face is sheer joy, she glows.

I saw Magdalys a year later, at church in Matanzas. She still had her smile, still had that incredible joy, but she shared with

me some words that chilled me to the bone: "I don't own this wheelchair. At home, I have to drag myself around the house."

Those words haunted me, stayed with me for months on end. I knew that I could not know that sad fact and not do something to change it. After some inquiries **Ed Enzor**, of **Global Samaritan** in Abilene, Texas, offered us a wheelchair a few weeks before we returned to Cuba.

It was Sunday, March 14, 2010, when we gave the wheelchair to the Matanzas church who in turn presented it to Magdalys. It was a moment of joy not only for Magdalys but for all of us who were present. I couldn't help but think back on Mark 2. Just as Jesus did with the paralytic, we had cared for this woman's spiritual needs, then attended to her physical needs.

It's a story that stretched out over two years. It's a story that will continue throughout eternity.



## Coco and Creech Join Herald of Truth

**Malcolm Coco** of Abilene, Texas, and **Mary Creech** of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, began their three year terms as members of the Board of Directors of Herald of Truth Ministries on January 1, 2010.



Coco



Creech

Coco, after retiring from the Air Force, began teaching in the College of Business Administration at Abilene Christian University in 1991 while he currently holds the rank of professor of Human Resource Management. He has traveled to China, France, Japan, Canada, Mexico and England to study international business and human resource management. His research has been intensively presented

and published nationally and internationally. He provides volunteer consulting for a number of nonprofit organizations and currently serves as an elder of the Hillcrest Church of Christ, Abilene, Texas.

Creech drives a pink Cadillac, just one sign of the success God has blessed her with since 1980 when she began as an independent

Mary Kay consultant. Today she is an Independent Executive Senior Sales Director of Mary Kay, Inc. She is a favorite presenter at the annual Mary Kay Leadership Career Conference as well as Ladies' Classes and church retreats.

Her business activities have taken her to Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Turkey, Greece and her mission trips included efforts in Israel and Nigeria. She and her husband, Jim, worship with the Vultee Church of Christ where Jim is the pulpit minister. Creech is the first woman to serve on the Herald of Truth Board of Directors.

## Monroy Recognized



During the Christian Literature Encounter held at the University of Salamanca (Salamanca, Spain) on April 10, 2010, **Juan**

**Antonio Monroy** received the first-ever "George Borrow Prize for Biblical Broadcasting" (Premio Jorge Borrow de Difusión Bíblica). The George Borrow Society awarded the prize to Monroy "for the valuable contributions of his journalistic work in Spanish and Latin American media, as well as his numerous evangelistic conferences at an international level."

Monroy, Herald of Truth's International Minister since 1964, lives in Madrid, Spain.

Find out more at [www.heraldoftruth.org](http://www.heraldoftruth.org)

# FROM OUR *Listeners...*

“... thank you for your thoughts on baptism. I realize from the Bible accounts that it was total immersion for the early Church. – *Joyce, Canada*”

“I want to know how best I can enjoy hope in Jesus and successfully live for Jesus. – *Moses, Uganda*”

“I have always thought and understood that the Holy Spirit comes to live in me when I repent of my sins and accept Jesus as my Savior based on His work on the Cross. Your Statement, “You get that gift when you are baptized” gives me some question in my mind, now. I am not criticizing but asking that you will share with me. I want to do the things in my life that God desires of me.  
– *Layne, South Carolina*”

“As Ive read in your article, I want to be part of a real community...at this point of my life, I deeply feel the need for group of people whom God will use to continually mold and make me. – *Liza, United States*”

“How do you have hope? Is there something I am doing wrong, or maybe I am paying for some sin? – *Shelley, USA*”

“I find it amazing that I stumbled upon your site in the first place...I googled how to find hope in life and I am happy I clicked on your link. Thank you for your site. – *Dallas, Canada*”

“i would like to understand worshiping god and truly be one of his children. how to study the bible , understanding his words. – *Lisa, New York*”

“I would love to forward your timely article on to her so she can send it to her non Christian friend who simply isn't sure of God at all.  
– *Michelle, USA*”

“I love your messages and pass them onto many. So good! God bless your serving others. – *Maggie, New York*”

“I would like to find a church, but I haven't been to one in several years and going by myself seems a little beyond me, at this point. I have a feeling I need to know for sure which church God wants me to be in...  
– *Trevor, Canada*”

## U P C O M I N G M I N I S T R Y

### July and August

**Herald of Truth** teams conducting campaigns in **Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique.**

### August 28-29

**Steve Ridgell** at the Central Church of Christ in **Spartanburg, South Carolina** conducting the **Sharing Our Story** seminar.

### September 25 and 26

**Tim Archer** at the Griffin Road Church of Christ in **Fort Lauderdale, Florida**, conducting **Christ and Culture** seminar.

## COME SEE US

### June 30 – July 2

Bill Brant, Tim Archer, and Steve Ridgell at **Lipscomb University's Summer Celebration**. Come visit us at the annual Herald of Truth breakfast on July 2 in the Shamblin Theatre at 7:00 AM.

### September 19-22

Bill Brant, Karen Presley, Tim Archer, and Steve Ridgell at **Abilene Christian University Summit**. Join us for the annual Herald of Truth breakfast at 7 AM on the 21<sup>st</sup> in the Campus Center Living Room. **Steve** will also be teaching two evangelism classes on *Sharing Our Story*.

### September 27-29

Bill Brant and Steve Ridgell at the Harding University Lectures. Steve will be teaching three sessions entitled *Sharing Our Story*.

### Open Invitation

You are always invited to visit us at one of our home congregations in or around Abilene, Texas.

Karen Presley teaches a Ladies' Bible class Sundays at **Hawley church of Christ**.

Tim Archer teaches Bible class and preaches for the Bilingual congregation meeting at **University church of Christ**, Abilene.

Bill Brant and Steve Ridgell teach Sunday adult classes at **Southern Hills church of Christ**.

Steve preaches Wednesday nights at Southern Hills.

His Word for His World is the official newsletter of Herald of Truth.



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### Our Mission

- Sowing the Seed through Mass Media.
- Watering the Seed through Evangelistic Events, Scripture and Literature Distributions.
- Reaping the Harvest through Discipleship and Connecting Respondents with Local Churches.



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