



Serving the suffering church around the world



Jul 2007 Aug

Administrative Changes Announced

The Praise board of directors has accepted the resignation of Pastor Richard Shaw as general director, and has appointed Mr. Jim Cardillo as the new director. Mr. Cardillo has been a director of special projects for the ministry for some time and comes to this position with a strong administrative background and a passion for the ministry of Praise. Pastor Shaw will continue his voluntary service to Praise, assisting in various aspects of the ministry. Pastor Shaw will assume the position of Regional Director for Eastern Europe and will also continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

More Changes

Because our programs of sponsorships, pastors' conferences, children's ministries and development are all overseas, we are adding the word "International" to our name to better reflect the focus of our work. We believe that Praise International will more clearly identify our ministry.

Our office building in Caldwell, Idaho has been sold. Please pray with us as we seek to locate a new permanent home for our administrative offices.



Thank you for the privilege of serving as General Director these past 16 months as Praise has been moving through various transitions. I have never been more excited about this ministry, and I am confident that Jim Cardillo will bring godly leadership and a fresh vision for growth of the work. I look forward to working closely with Jim in the months and years ahead. Please pray for him as he takes on this leadership position.

Pastor Richard Shaw



I would like to express my gratitude to Pastor Richard Shaw and the Board of Directors of Praise International for their vote of confidence in me, allowing me the privilege of serving as General Director. I am not new to Praise - for several years I have been involved as a supporter and most recently as Special Projects Director. Foreign missions is and has been my passion for as long as I can remember. Over the course of my life I have traveled extensively, and much of that travel has been missions related. I am committed to Praise International, its mission and those it serves. I look forward to ministering together with you in the days ahead.

Serving Him Together,

Jim Cardillo
General Director

Growing A Church

By Jill Ortiz, Villa Corona, Mexico

"I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

-Jesus Christ

Our family has been working in Villa Corona, Mexico for about five years, and we have the beginning of a small church group. We have services together on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. Friday night is specifically for prayer. Saturday evenings we get the youth together, and after playing some sports, we have a Bible study and verse memorization. On Sunday mornings we have Sunday School evangelism training before going out for door to door visitations for a few hours. There are now seven people going out each week. Our church attendance is from 20 to 30 people most Sundays. Our goal is to reach as many people in Villa Corona as possible for Jesus Christ and to provide a refuge for them to meet with the Lord and other believers away from all their cultural and family problems and pressures.

Villa Corona has five Catholic churches and a small group of Jehovah's Witnesses. Mormons also visit, but have no church building in town. Because of Villa Corona's natural hot springs, there are four large water parks that bring many tourists. This raises

Monthly Sponsorship Levels Raised

The Board of Directors of Praise has moved to raise the level of new monthly pastor sponsorships from \$25 to \$30. This \$5 increase is voluntary for existing sponsors. Until now all sponsorship funds given have been disbursed to the sponsored pastors. However, as our general fund expenses have continued to grow, it is necessary to ask for help to meet our operational costs. The extra \$5 will help cover the costs of fund distributions and other expenses related to pastoral support.

Thank you for your commitment to pray for and support the world's most impoverished pastors.

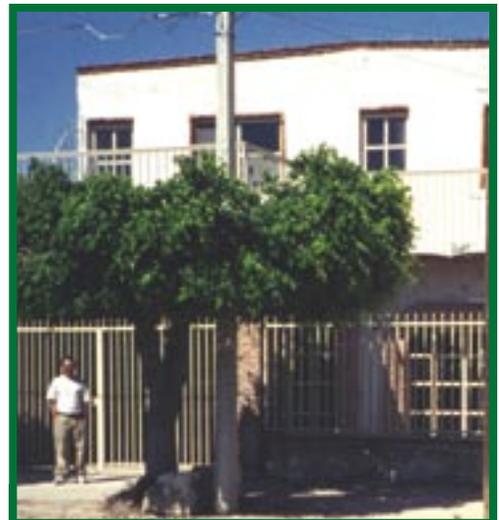
the price of property. People in the community are very set in their religious traditions and non-Biblical folk beliefs. Peer pressure is great on those who leave to follow some other religion. We are praying that a Christian church can put down strong roots here, and we are praying that we might have a permanent building in which to meet.

When we began, we rented a place, but had to leave after three months because the lady who rented to us was receiving threatening letters under her door from Catholics who did not want us there. We met in our house for about a year, and then located the building where we meet now. We have rented this building for about three years. However,

now the owner wants to sell the building for a lump sum payment of about \$40,000 US. We have been praying that the Lord would provide for us to purchase the building so we might have a permanent place to meet. It is in a good location and has many possibilities for improvement. However, we are open to purchase something else if the Lord so directs. The Lord knows our needs for the future and we are happy with His provisions. It would be a big encouragement to everyone to see that we have our own building. We could make adjustments for special needs, like mothers with nursing children and bathrooms for men and women. People learn quickly where we are meeting and it would be wonderful to have a stable place. Several people have offered to pray and give toward this project. All help is greatly appreciated.

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Jesse and Jill Ortiz and their children are currently supported by a Praise sponsor. If you would like to share in the vision of seeing a permanent building for this growing church in Villa Corona, Mexico, send your gift to Praise and designate it for Villa Corona church.



Pastor Ortiz in front of the building they are renting for services that is available for purchase.

Friend of Praise Slain

By Richard Shaw

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8NIV

Dee Lynn, a Christian businesswoman and friend of Praise, was found slain in her Meridian, Idaho home a few weeks ago. Police are still following up on leads but have not made any arrests. At the time of her death, Dee was personally supporting 24 of our pastors in various countries. Over the past several years, Dee has also helped with various other projects, including Bible school training in China and building construction in the Philippines. Please join us in praying for her family and friends who are shocked and saddened by her violent death. Pray also for others who will pick up the support of the faithful pastors she was helping.



Jesse and Jill Ortiz and their children in Villa Corona

A Heart for the Least of These

By Sergiu Rutcovschi,
Capriana, Moldova

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

Luke 14:13,14 (NIV)

I was born September 11, 1976 and grew up in the city of Floresti. My central nervous system was damaged from birth and left me disabled for life. I was sent to a specialized boarding school for 10 years 130 km from home and was able to visit my family only four times a year. When I graduated I went to college and earned a degree in auditing and accounting. At the college I met Ruslan Melestean, who became my friend, shared the gospel with me, and invited me to "Jesus The Savior" church, where I received Christ as my Savior.

I began growing by attending Bible studies and serving on a ministry team visiting hospitals and sharing the gospel. As I shared short evangelistic messages, many people responded to the gospel. I also did some preaching in my home area during the summers. I believed I was useful for ministry even with my disabilities. In fact, I was challenged to develop ministry for people with disabilities. There was no gospel outreach to them at the time.

I started to preach at a local church and lead Bible studies with church members and young unbelievers. I finished a course on inductive Bible study and I am continuing my studies at TCM Bible Institute working on a Master

of Arts in Theology.

Now I have assembled a team of people who help reach out to the disabled of Moldova and take them the gospel. We offer help with food, clothing, medical supplies and furniture. We also offer a summer camp ministry, evangelistic services and correspondence Bible study courses. We are touching up to 150 people each year, and during the four years of our ministry many people have come to Christ and now study the Bible. They are attending church regularly, and their thinking and lifestyles have changed. I love this ministry with all my heart. Our last Bible Study Camp had 120 people come, and 60 received Christ!

Please pray for us. My wife and I have two boys, age 7 and 5. God has blessed us with a house in Capriana. My income is 100 euros a month [just over \$100 US], so we meet our needs with great difficulty. God has led us to try to begin a business in our community that would offer internet service, fax, copying, printing and games. We are trusting that such a business would provide needed services

in our city and would also help support our ministry.

Because of my disabilities, it is hard for me, but I do not want to complain. I thank the Lord that I can work intellectually, and I know the computer well. Together with my wife, we pray for a car. Please pray for the needs of my family, and if you are able, we would appreciate your help for our family business to become a reality.

See photo on next page.

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You can become part of the answer for Sergui's prayers. We are seeking a regular sponsor for his family, and we are also seeking partners for his business. He has developed a remarkable business plan that is very realistic. He is seeking to raise \$6,000 to launch his business. Gifts of \$60, \$120, \$240, and \$600 would be welcomed for this purpose.

If you would like to become Sergui's sponsor, or if you would like more specific information about his business plan, call or write to us.

Psalms of Comfort And Encouragement DVD

Now Available!

We are now able to offer a beautiful DVD of ocean and other water features with Psalms of Comfort and Encouragement being read by Willard Waggoner. This is a wonderful recording for anyone who is seeking the peace and comfort of the Lord.

The DVDs are \$5.99 plus postage and handling. Write or call to request your copy. This DVD makes a great gift for anyone recovering from an illness or injury, or a resident of a nursing home or assisted living facility.



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Meet our New Oregon-Washington Representatives!

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Acts 16:9(NIV)

Praise welcomes the Miller Family as our Special Representatives in the Northwest!

Jeff Miller was born in 1960 and raised in a Christian family in Vancouver, WA. His father owned Miller's Refrigeration and his mother worked part time for 7 years as the county director for Child Evangelism Fellowship.

Jeff accepted Christ as his savior at an early age as a result of a Good News Club held in his home. He was baptized at Battle Ground Baptist Church and bases his salvation on John 3:16 and Romans 10:9,10. He Believes the Bible is the inerrant Word of God.

He attended Clark County Christian School through 8th grade, public high school, and attended Multnomah Bible College in Portland, OR for one year. Jeff was active in his family's local church, Hazel Dell Evangelical Free, working with the youth, serving as an usher and trustee, and helping with construction of a new church building. He also taught an adult Sunday school class and served as a trustee, usher, and financial secretary at Charter Oak Evangelical Free.

After a year at Multnomah, Jeff attended 4 years of apprentice school for pipefitting and refrigeration at night while working for his Dad's business. Jeff married Teri in 1987 and continued in installation and service work until buying the business from his Dad

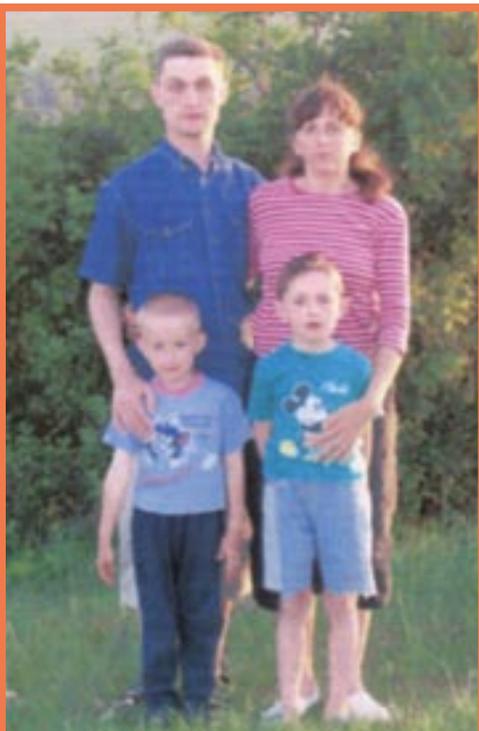
in 1992.

In the spring of 2000 Jeff and Teri heard about Praise Inc. for the first time and were very impressed by the ministry to pastors. Jeff began to think that someday he might want to work for Praise to help grow the ministry. Later that year, Jeff was diagnosed with a chronic illness that causes pain in the muscles and fatigue. After over a year of tests and treatments a medicine was found that helps relieve the symptoms and makes it possible for him to function.

This year has been a big year of transition for the Millers. Jeff and Teri sold their business, and Jeff was licensed for the gospel ministry by his home church. Now, the Praise family welcomes Jeff as the special representative for Praise in the Northwest. He and his family are available to present the ministry of Praise in churches, Sunday School classes, before Missions Committees, or small groups. They also have pearls for sale that support the ministry of Praise.

The Millers have two children, Russell, age 17, and Shelley, age 15. Both individually support a Praise pastor. Russell enjoys playing bluegrass guitar with his Dad, and they both enjoy fly fishing. He is a student at Clark Community College and has attended the Worldview Academy camp several years. Shelley is interested in a wide range of arts and crafts and is a skilled photographer. She has a summertime photography business at Royal Ridges Horse Camp.

Teri has home-schooled both children for the past 10 years. Her passion is training young people in understanding the Christian worldview and in supporting ministries that best meet the needs of those spreading the gospel.



Sergui and Tatiana from Moldova with their two boys. Read their story on Page 3.