



Integrity ministries



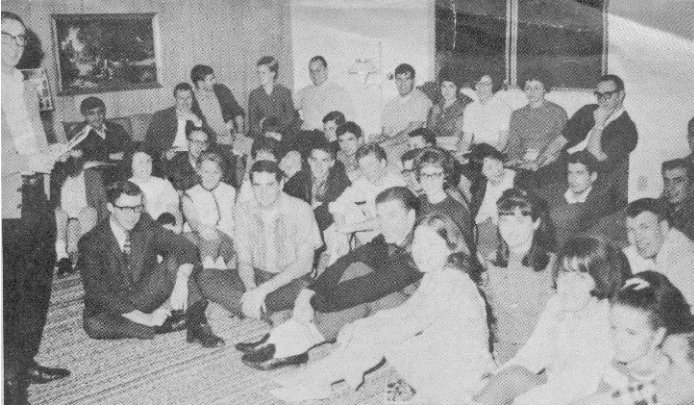
Thurston Spring Report

Casilla 207-11, Santiago, Chile.
E-mail: jim@thurston.cl
Phone: 011-562-274-2485
Free call: 360-450-4010

March 2013

P.O. Box 1217 Oaks, PA 19456 - www.integrityministries.net

2013 Celebrating 50 years in the Ministry and now planning for the next 50 years



This was one of our first evangelistic meetings at Southern Oregon University in 1964

How did it begin?

After graduating from Seattle Pacific University in 1962 and teaching in the Seattle Public School System, God called me into the ministry in 1963. I was greatly influenced by my youth minister John Flack to join him and a group of 60 others to reach the leaders of the next generation for Christ. University students are the key to reaching the world for Christ. John had been involved before coming to my home church as a

and send people out for Christ. In that short time many received the Lord and seven students upon graduating entered into the full time ministry. Four joined CCC, two joined Aviation fellowship and one became a Southern Baptist missionary. There may be more that I don't know anything about.

Off to Chile

In 1966, I was asked if I would be interested in working in Latin America for a short time, around six months to a year, and I said, "Sure." Within two months I was on my way to Chile. I sold my bicycle and my ham radio to help buy the plane ticket; both were two of the first things I bought when I started to sell newspapers at age nine at Boeing and at the Renton Hospital.

I knew nothing about Chile and I didn't speak Spanish. I took no foreign language classes in high school or college as I thought, why take one, when I will never use it (famous last thoughts.) Upon arriving in Chile with a box of books and a few clothes, I was greeted by Hugo Lopez who had just been chosen to be the new Chile Director. After two weeks in Chile, he informed he was leaving Chile to go to the States to work for the YMCA in Kansas City. There I was alone, not speaking the language, and I couldn't go back because I had just arrived. So unofficially I became the Country Director. I started to do the same as what I did at Southern Oregon. I began to train



Original evangelistic materials produced in Chile 1970-76

youth pastor in Bremerton in Campus Crusade for Christ on the East coast. He worked in the church for a short time and then left to join Campus Crusade. He wanted me to follow his footsteps, which I did. My first training assignment was at the University of Oregon under Bud Hinkson who was another great soul winner and a person of great vision. He was probably the number three man in CCC and had great influence in the life of the Oregon Governor at the time, Governor Mark Hatfield.

Working in Southern Oregon

After spending time with him for 1 ½ years I was sent to Southern Oregon University to start a work all by myself. God greatly blessed and in over just a year over 10% of the campus was evangelized along with the student body president. My purpose there was to win, build



Part of the 35 staff along with the Regional Director two potential staff that Hugo has recruited. Lina was one of them. They were able to speak a little English, so I began to train them. The idea was to train a national staff and turn the ministry over to them. At that time there were about 35 full time staff. This endeavor took ten years.

Living under Marxism

In 1970, a Marxist government was elected and was in power until 1973. It was over thrown by a military coup. It was unbelievable the amount of energy the Marxists spent attacking the USA.



An evangelistic student meeting in 1971

My life was on the line every day, since I was working with university students who were die hard Marxists and some thought I was a CIA spy. From 1973 to 1990 we lived under a military dictatorship, where we had a curfew every night for 17 years. We could not speak about politics and if we did, we could be hauled to prison. At times, folks could face torture under those circumstances. Some were tied to electrified metallic bed springs to make them talk. Living in a state of war for nearly 20 years greatly affects a person. These were difficult times, but the Lord protected us. Lina was able to explain the Gospel in a meeting she had with the four ruling military wives in 1974.



Lina with the ruling military wives

Mission accomplished

After turning the CCC ministry over to the local management team, my work with CCC was finished in Chile. I received a diploma from the Latin American Director naming me the Honorary Director for life and I am still part of the CCC national Chile board.

After working with CCC for 14 years and 10 years in Chile. I resigned. My heart was still in Chile as I had so many friends in high places there. I then began to pray, "Lord what would you have me do, just show me and I will do it." A short time after much prayer, around 4 AM, the Lord began to speak to me. God showed me that one of the weaknesses of the Chilean church was discipleship and Bible training. I said, "Lord what do you want, Bible schools?"

As partners and friends, thanks for your prayers, your concern, your willingness to back us in this international ministry. Your missions investment is working.

And then the Lord showed me that by using video technology, with just a few good Bible teachers, thousands could be trained. It was such a new concept that when I explained it in the churches, most didn't understand what I was talking about.

First TV production center

In 1977, I returned to build the first Christian TV production center and become the first pioneer in mass communications in Chile. Our production center was designed to record Bible classes using the culture and the language of Chile. At first we had to take the classes out to the churches along with a video machine and later we started to push them through the Christian book stores. Almost everything now goes over the Internet. We have close to 1000 video Bible classes recorded over the years. One of the highlights was recording 80 classes on apologetics by the famous author Josh McDowell. We are using Chile as a springboard to reach the world. I have received hundreds of emails by folks whose lives have been transformed.

Expanding to the world

In 1997, along with my son Steve, we started a Christian Web site which grew to be the most dominate Christian site in Spanish in the world with millions of monthly unique users. We continue in the original vision and presently are recording a complete Internet Bible school.

Personal achievements

Some of the exciting things along the personal side have been holding different positions in the Chilean church. For two years I was the National Director of Evangelism for 140 churches and for four years I was the National Sunday School Director for 130 churches. During that time the Sunday school increased 24%. I have represented Chile at different world Christian events. In 1986 and 2000, I was chosen to be a Chilean delegate with all expenses paid to attend the Billy Graham Congress on Evangelism in Amstersdam. I was also chosen in 1991, as a delegate to ICMC International Christian Communications Conference in Sheffield, England. In 1971, I received the Outstanding Young American award.

The next 50 years

Now what about the next fifty years? The plan is to continue what we are doing and expand the ministry. We are working on a plan to renew some of our old out dated equipment and expand the Bible classes through the use of the Internet. We are praying for more workers whether short time or long range to help out in this strategic project.

With the need to utilize the latest technology to continue to spread the Gospel. We will soon start a plan to raise \$125,000 to allow us to carry on this great work of giving out the Good News around the world by utilizing the latest technology to continue to spread the Gospel.

Jim