



🌐 **2005 is flying faster than 2004!** My last term of this school year for teaching ends the middle of March while the recruiting, training and mentoring continue until graduation. This has been an exciting and uplifting term. As I have taught the AIM students *Missions Evangelism* and the Preaching Lab to level 2 students, I have witnessed growth and increased excitement toward missions. These are exceptional young men and women who will be a strong force in spreading the Good News of Jesus.

🌐 **The AIM team for Gosford, NSW, Australia** is developing nicely. The "Gosford Girls" are having a Cultural Breakfast the Monday after their graduation and we will be attending both events. It has been thrilling to watch these young women grow in their excitement over working in the Kingdom in Australia. We look forward to visiting them on the field.

🌐 **The Melbourne Team** that is forming at SIBI is making a survey trip during the March break to have a look at their destination. Please pray for their safety and the success of their trip. They are planning to go through Advanced Missions after graduation and serving an internship. We will host them at a retreat weekend in our home this spring. They are dedicated young men and women who will be a great asset in reaping the harvest for Jesus in Australia.

🌐 **Another potential team may be forming for New Zealand or Australia.** Bryan Shelley (L) is from Austin with a training, management and sales background. Paul Nash (R) has a background in team building, human resources and talent management. Both are mature men with organizational and working skills that will serve them well in any area of ministry. They and their wives have indicated an interest in New Zealand or Australia as a place for God to put their talents to work. Both families have made plans to enroll in Advanced Missions at the end of their second level of training. Pray for them, please. Men and women of their experience and maturity are greatly needed in



Oceania. **This will be three teams** which have formed, been trained and mentored at SIBI for the region during our brief time here. We are extremely excited about and grateful for this opportunity to participate in planting new works in Oceania. God is indeed working in the hearts and spirits of the men and women who come here to prepare and train.

🌐 **Travel Plans for May-July are finalizing.** Brenda and I have decided that this year's trip will be done solo. This has been an extremely difficult decision. She's an integral part of the work done on our trips. While her health has greatly improved, we believe she needs another year to strengthen her immune system after four bouts of pneumonia in a year. Right now, neither one of us is concentrating on being separated for six weeks.

As mentioned in my last report, I will be traveling to Portland Oregon for a May 3rd meeting with SIBI's Dean of International Studies, Truman Scott, and other deans

responsible for international training. These are the men involved in our branch and affiliated schools. I am, of course particularly interested in Bible training for Oceania. We have some interested parties I will be meeting with this summer. The meeting in Oregon will provide essential information for my trip.

I will spend time in Gosford, Sydney and Melbourne working with churches and on behalf of the teams from SIBI who will work in these locales. Then, on to New Zealand to meet with Charles Speer (Dean of Students) and Ben Walker (Counselor with AIM) preparing for more opportunities to work there. We will also visit the fine school in Tauranga.

🌐 **Terry Smith, one of our second level students** is one of the most effective personal evangelists I know. He and Vonda are from Abilene, TX (our fair city) where they have taught and converted as many as 23 people in a two-year period. Terry is one of those people who can turn almost any conversation into a teaching opportunity. He is excited and passionate about teaching others to do the same. This month I had he and his wife, Vonda, teach an AIM class on how to start conversations that lead to Bible studies. With a donation from the Oldham Lane congregation in Abilene, he purchased pocket testaments for each of our 49 students. He loves teaching this age group and they respond to him very well. He and his wife, Vonda, go nearly every year to Africa to do short-term evangelism and training.



I have a dream of taking this fine couple with me next year to teach the same things to Christians in Australia. Will you dream with me?

I provide seminars for interested groups as time permits. They are available to churches both in the USA and in Oceania. Interested churches should schedule these as far in advance as possible. **If you are in Australia or New Zealand**, I need to hear from you immediately so I can plan internal travel for May-July.

Seminars available:

- **Back On Track** (recapturing the mission of the local church)
- **Local Evangelism for Missional Churches** (how to reach the lost and equip the saved)
- **Workshop for Missions Leadership Teams** (how to organize and function as a team)
- **Sending Church Seminar** (finding, sending and supporting missionaries effectively)

Reminder: We are in immediate need of one-time (one-off) contributions toward our travel funds. Please earmark your checks: "Whitsett travel" and send them to **Woodland Oaks Church of Christ**, 7300 Crownridge, The Woodlands, TX 77382

We are in awe of our Lord's amazing blessings toward us! He continues to provide our essential needs through each of you, our dear fellow-laborers, to do this great and desperately needed work for Oceania. Without each of you participating in the teaching, training and mentoring of men and women for missions, we would not be seeing this growing commitment to God's work in this vast region. Thank you again for believing in us and understanding the tremendous need for redeeming the lost in the lands down under. May our God bless you with abundance as you continue to participate in the spreading of the GOOD NEWS of our LORD and SAVIOR!

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