

OPEN BIBLE CHURCHES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
June 2010

International Ministries is dedicated to the total evangelization of the world in obedience to the Great Commission – “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

Throughout its history Open Bible has sent more than 250 missionaries to over 44 countries. World evangelization was central to the theology and practice of our founding fathers. The biblical mandate of sharing the gospel worldwide is part of who and what we are today.

Ministries include churches, church planting, Bible institutes, Theological Education by Extension (T.E.E.) programs, INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension), correspondence courses, radio and TV programs, medical clinics, translation work, self-help programs, Puente de Amistad (short-term ministries in Tijuana, Mexico), and a variety of humanitarian programs such as feeding kitchens for children and relief aid to the destitute.

There are 1,618 churches overseas among 44 countries, with a constituent membership of 161,541 and 1,999 credentialed ministers. Open Bible has 1,571 students in Bible institutes overseas. Over 10,000 students are enrolled in INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) or T.E.E. (Theological Education by Extension). Thirty-nine of the 44 countries in which we work are nationalized, which means that national leadership has been trained and has replaced missionary personnel in primary leadership responsibility.

PURPOSE STATEMENT - *International Ministries exists*

*To partner globally with churches in sending missionaries,
making disciples, and multiplying churches.*

The following pages describe the countries where Open Bible ministers.

ARGENTINA

Hugo and Rina Castro went to Argentina in 1961 as missionaries from their home in Chile. Through the years, a group of independent churches was formed. In June 1982 the group was affiliated with Open Bible Churches.

Vince and Lois McCarty were appointed as missionaries in 1990. Their primary ministry was the development of Level Two INSTE. The McCartys also served as INSTE Directors for South America. They returned to the U.S. in June 1995 and the work was nationalized. In 2001, missionary Ed Daley arrived to assist Ruth Castro de Purat, then INSTE National Director, in the INSTE program. Due to the economic crisis, many of the INSTE students were unable to continue their studies. Because of this, Ed returned to the States in late 2002. Hugo Romero is the current INSTE National Director.

Open Bible has 180 churches with 18,313 members, 309 credentialed ministers, 486 INSTE students, feeding kitchens to feed the poor, orphanages and radio and TV broadcasts.

Hugo Castro is the field director for Argentina and also serves as the Area Director for South America. He was granted National Missionary Appointment in October 1993.

ARUBA

Pastor Cecil Quamina of the First Church of the Open Bible in San Fernando, Trinidad, first met Lisette Malmberg at Faith Revival Center in Aruba. In 2001 the Lord called Lisette to begin a new church in the district of Noord, Aruba. Lisette requested Pastor Quamina to provide a spiritual covering for her and the church. He graciously accepted and thus began the formal relationship with the Open Bible Churches.

The New Life Tabernacle Open Bible Church in Aruba was founded in 2002 with seven adults and their children. The congregation has grown to over 285 members and is involved in 11 ministries. They produce a television program that is broadcast in the Papiamento language every week and reaches the nations of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao with the gospel.

Pastor Malmberg and her staff also oversee five churches in the city of Baranquilla, Columbia, that are also in relationship with the Open Bible Churches of Trinidad and Tobago.

AUSTRALIA

Mark and Debbie Brandt made an in-depth study of Australia and their future ministry opportunities in January 2002. They arrived in Western Australia in May 2003, where they worked among the Aboriginal people. The Brandts directed the INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) program and an INSTE group began. The western cities of Perth, a city of approximately 1.8 million people, and Bunbury were chosen as key areas. The Lord gave the Brandts contacts in both areas where ministry was initiated. The Brandts established the Open Bible Association in Western Australia and selected a Board among the contacts they had made.

Mark and Debbie Brandt completed their term in 2007 and left Australia, deciding to not remain on the missionary staff. Open Bible ministry in Australia continues under the direction of the Open Bible Association Board, with continued outreaches to the Aborigine people in the Outback. John Matthews is the president of the Open Bible Board Association Board.

BRAZIL

Roberto Guzzo, a Brazilian who later ministered with Open Bible in Argentina, established the Open Bible church in Porto Alegre in 1977. In June 1982 the church affiliated with Open Bible Churches under the direction of Hugo Castro in Argentina.

Although there are no American missionaries, Open Bible has 7 churches with 242 members and 15 credentialed ministers. There are 9 INSTE students.

Valdir Guimaraes is the field director, as well as pastor of the Open Bible Church in Porto Alegre.

CANADA

Former Eastern Region Superintendent C. Russell Archer was directly responsible for establishing relationship with churches in Canada that later became Open Bible in Canada. In 2006 Rev. Rick Ciaramitaro and the Board of Directors of the Open Bible Faith Fellowship of Canada were granted affiliation and recognition with the Department of International Ministries U.S.A.

Rick Ciaramitaro and Cathy, his wife, pastor Windsor Christian Fellowship in Windsor, Ontario. Rick pioneered the church 23 years ago and it presently has a membership of about 2,000. Rick hosts a television program that reaches across Canada called "Life Inside Out."

There are 153 Open Bible churches in Canada with 22,956 members and 463 credentialed ministers. Open Bible maintains several Bible schools for the training of future ministers and leaders.

Rick Ciaramitaro serves as field director.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Open Bible has one church with 101 members and three credentialed minister on the Grand Cayman Island. Evangelistic outreaches include a radio program and a prison ministry. The Cayman Islands ministry is a ministry of the Open Bible Churches in Jamaica.

Anthony Gager is the field director.

CHILE

The Open Bible Churches were started by Hugo and Rina Castro as an outreach ministry of the work in Argentina. They were affiliated with Open Bible Churches in June 1982. The affect of the growth in number of evangelical Christians is unique. It has pressured the Catholic Church to change; there is a strong Catholic charismatic renewal movement.

Open Bible has 27 churches with 1,185 members and 50 credentialed ministers. Seven of the churches are located in Santiago. Children's feeding kitchens are operated in Temuco, Los Angeles, and Valparaiso.

Ralph and Ada Hernandez were appointed as missionaries in 1989. Through open air evangelistic campaigns the churches were strengthened. One of the most rapidly growing aspects of the work is the ministry to the Mapuchi Indians high in the Andes Mountains. In 1998 Ralph and Ada Hernandez were reappointed to El Salvador.

Fernando Torres serves as the field director.

COSTA RICA

In 1999, Pastor Carlos Mora was the assistant pastor in one of the largest churches in the capital city of San Jose when he learned about the INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) program. He wanted the discipleship/leadership program to be available in his country so Pastor Mora became the INSTE director for Costa Rica.

In 2001 the Mora family was sent as missionaries by Trans World Mission to Venezuela. After working there for a year to establish a new work in the capital city of Caracas, because of the effects of the attack of 9/11, the funds of the missions department were depleted and the Mora family returned to Costa Rica, where he again became involved in the INSTE program development. They also began an independent church, Christian Mission of New Life Church, in the San Jose suburb of Guadalupe. The church, which started in their home, has grown to 150 people. There are 25 INSTE students.

Because of the Moras' relationship with Drs. Nick and Leona Venditti, international directors of INSTE, they requested affiliation with Open Bible. In November 2003 Administrative Assistant Vince McCarty traveled to Costa Rica to meet with Carlos Mora and Kattia, his wife. After reviewing the bylaws and doctrinal statements, the Board of International Ministries accepted the church and Rev. Mora into fellowship. The church and pastor are pleased to be part of the Open Bible family. In 2007, the M.O.V.E. construction team from the U.S. built a new facility for the church.

Carlos Mora serves as the field director.

CUBA

In 1937 Open Bible sent its first missionaries to Cuba, the Luther Adams family. Many other missionaries served in Cuba until the country came under communist control in 1959. The Open Bible Churches were nationalized when American personnel were forced to leave.

Open Bible has 60 churches with 14,020 members and 33 credentialed ministers. The INSTE program has 518 students. There are 380 house churches with as many as 100 people in each. A sovereign revival is taking place. Every church is expanding and many of the churches are involved in a building program.

Through the Adopt-A-Church program, the Cuban churches have been blessed with correspondence, prayer support and some financial assistance from their sister churches

in the U.S. The assistance with funds for food for the pastors has been invaluable. The Open Bible churches have adopted the motto "Cuba for Christ."

David Moreno is the field director.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Missionaries Bill and Wanda Jimenez deployed to the Dominican Republic in 1986, where they started the Open Bible work. The Jimenez family returned to the United States in May of 1991. In 1990 Jesus and Anna Vasquez were appointed as Harvestime missionaries to the Dominican Republic and arrived in May 1991. The Vasquez returned to the United States in August of 1993. The Open Bible work was not continued and the field was closed.

In March of 2005 new contacts were established. Currently there is a church in San Pedro de Macoris with an attendance of 150 people, and one credentialed minister. The U.S. MOVE construction team built a new church facility in San Pedro in January 2010.

The church in San Pedro conducts a weekly outreach to the community of Batey Uno, about four miles from their church in San Pedro. Food, clothing and school supplies are provided for needy children.

Claudia Santana serves as the field director.

EL SALVADOR

In 1973 a group of ten pastors solicited fellowship with Open Bible. In July 1975 the Paul Canfield family arrived and received the pastors and churches. The following four years were spent organizing the existing churches and establishing the Open Bible incorporation. The Canfields returned to the States in 1979.

The ministry was nationalized in 1981 due to the civil war when it became necessary to evacuate American personnel. An astonishing spiritual harvest has been gathered in the midst of the hate and bitterness of war. A peace agreement was signed in 1992 in Mexico City.

The door is once again open for missionaries. Ralph and Ada Hernandez were appointed as missionaries to El Salvador in 1998. Their ministry centers at the Open Bible church in Santa Tecla, a suburb of San Salvador.

Open Bible has 13 churches with 975 members and 15 credentialed ministers. There are 12 INSTE students among the Open Bible churches, plus 73 in other denominations. The M.O.V.E. construction team built a new church building in Santa Cruz Portillo in May 2002. Other new church buildings have been funded by various individual U.S. churches.

Ralph Hernandez serves as the field director.

ENGLAND

In 2004 Andy Homer, Field Director of Open Bible Churches of Trinidad and Tobago, and Cecil Quamina, pastor of the San Fernando Open Bible Church, made contact with Joseph and Emerald Stephenson in London, England. Open Bible Churches of Trinidad and Tobago was interested in partnering with the Stephensons and their church congregation and outreaches.

The Stephensons are the founders and directors of Rapture Ministries, a charitable organization that provides outreach and ministry to street people, the homeless, the poor, hospitals and prisons. They have ten locations where they specifically go to minister to the homeless and poor. They provide food and clothing and some medical help. The Stephensons also pastor a church in London and oversee other outreaches.

In March 2006 the Board of International Ministries of Open Bible Churches U.S.A. approved the request for affiliation to Joseph and Emerald Stephenson.

Emerald Stephenson serves as the field director.

GHANA

Twum Bosiako studied at Open Bible College in Des Moines, Iowa, and returned to Ghana in 1971 to minister to his own people. He was granted National Missionary Appointment in June 1971. Open Bible has 27 churches with 1,325 members and 15 credentialed ministers. INSTE was initiated in 2002 and there are currently 5 INSTE students.

The primary focus of the ministry is evangelistic campaigns. Hundreds respond to the gospel. A unique facet is the number of miracles and deliverances. Many are freed from

the bondage of demon possession and demonic oppression. A healing center/campground property was purchased to minister to those who are set free.

Several self-help projects provide financial assistance to the pastors. They include carpentry and furniture making. The headquarters church is in Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana. Open Bible Christian School (an elementary school) is located in Kumasi.

Twum Bosiako serves as the field director.

GRENADA

The Open Bible Churches of Trinidad and Tobago sent their first missionaries, the Munroe Cox family, to Grenada in 1971.

Open Bible has 6 churches with 600 members and 17 credentialed ministers. Ministries include a pre-school, prison ministry, the INSTE program with 12 students, and a radio program.

Royston Gilbert is the field director.

GUATEMALA

In 1975 Paul Canfield, then field director for Latin America, met with Antonio Texaj, a pastor whose congregation of Cachiuel Indians lives high in the mountains of Chimaltenango. The initial beginning of the Open Bible ministry was born out of the devastating earthquake on February 4, 1976. The Open Bible churches in the USA responded to the needs of the church in Chimaltenango by sending a block-making machine to rebuild their church that had been destroyed. A short time later Pastor Texaj and his congregation joined Open Bible Churches.

Pastor Texaj continued to faithfully lead the churches and works in Guatemala until his death in 1999. Adrian Ixcamey, pastor of the Open Bible Church in Sumpango, was then appointed as president and field director.

Open Bible now has 24 churches throughout Guatemala, with 1,520 members and 18 ministers. No other country in Central America has experienced such revival.

INSTE was initiated in 1997 by Central America INSTE Director Juan Cruz and presently has over 200 students from several church denominations.

Adrian Ixcamey is the field director.

GUINEA

Grant and Wilma Moore became the first Open Bible missionaries to Guinea in 1952. Later other missionaries joined the Moores and together they began translating the New Testament into the Soso language. In 1968 the government expelled all missionary personnel.

Jean-Fodé Bangoura, the son of a chief, had accepted the Lord and had gone to Bible school in Senegal. He returned to Guinea and cautiously took up the ministry where the missionaries had left off. For 17 years Jean-Fodé faithfully continued to witness and spread the Gospel. In 1984 the president of Guinea died and the country was once again open to receiving missionaries.

In 1985 Tom Moore, son of Grant and Wilma Moore, and Sherry, his wife, daughter of former missionaries Bob and Evelyn Welch, felt God was calling them to go to Guinea to continue the work that Tom's parents had begun. Tom and Sherry were granted missionary appointment and went to Guinea with their four sons, Tom, Mike, Scott and Tim in 1987. When Tom and Sherry returned to Guinea in 2003 they were traveling alone. Their four sons had grown up and remained in the States to pursue their education and careers.

Seeing the need for education and pastoral training, INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) was introduced in Guinea in 2006. Open Bible has 13 churches with 1,250 members and 16 credentialed ministers. INSTE began in 2010 and has seven students. Several self-help programs were established to provide pastors with limited financial assistance.

Open Bible is one of the few groups experiencing a harvest among the Moslems. The primary vision and focus of the work is to prepare national workers.

Joseph Camara serves as the field director.

GUYANA

In 1997 a new Open Bible missions outreach was begun when Open Bible Churches of Trinidad sent missionary Rodney Singh and Rebekah, his wife, to begin a church in the capital city of Georgetown. Within a year, a church was established in the living room of one of the first converts. In 2005 the Rodney Singh family returned to Trinidad and Joseph and Sherry Ann Moore became the pastors and continue the ministry.

There are 2 churches (plus 3 Sunday schools) with 90 members and 2 credentialed ministers, and 2 INSTE students.

Joseph Moore serves as the field director.

HUNGARY

In 1979 Michael Gulyás, Mary, his wife, and their children moved to Debrecen. The Shalom Bible Churches started as a home prayer group in 1987 with a group of ten people. The prayer group requested recognition and registration at a State Church Office in 1987. Registration was finally granted in 1991. The Shalom Bible Church made its first public step in 1990, leaving the home church and meeting in a public building in Debrecen.

In February 1996 affiliation was granted with Open Bible Churches. There are 2 churches with 150 members and 4 credentialed ministers.

Translation of Level One INSTE into Hungarian was started in 1996 and is now completed. Tammy Swailes was appointed in 1998 as Central/East Europe INSTE Director. Her first priority was to coordinate and direct the growth of INSTE in Hungary, Romania and Ukraine. Bethany Brandt joined Tammy in 2004 and assisted in the development of the INSTE program. Bethany returned to the States in 2007. Mike and Nancy Juntunen were appointed in 2007 to assist Tammy Swailes in the expansion of INSTE in Hungarian language in Hungary and then to the surrounding countries. Currently there are 3 groups and 28 students studying in Hungarian.

In May 2000, a construction team consisting of 30 M.O.V.E. men built a church in the town of Nyirbogyany.

Michael Gulyás serves as the field director.

INDIA

Hazel Forrester of Lodi, California, was the first Bible Standard missionary who was duly commissioned and guaranteed support. She arrived in India in 1928. Pearl Booton was appointed as the first missionary from the Open Bible Evangelistic Association. She arrived in Orai, India, in September 1933, where she ministered for the next ten years.

Willis and Grace Clay had been independent missionaries in India for several years when they met Pearl Booton in South India. They joined Open Bible Churches in 1938. The Clays established several Bible schools to train converts to be soul winners and mature Christian leaders. When the war in the Pacific made it advisable for the Clays to return to the U.S., the work continued under the leadership of the nationals whom they had trained. After the war years, the Clays returned to India in May 1945. They continued in a productive ministry in South India for over a year before political conditions placed them in a dangerous situation and they sailed for home. Because of unstable war conditions in India, the missionary program was not continued. After Willis and Grace Clay returned home, contact with Open Bible was lost.

In 1996 communication was re-established with Open Bible in the U.S. and affiliation was granted in May 1996. The group in southern India is called the Open Bible Church of God and is directed by John Paul, son of the first convert of the Clays' ministry. John Paul also directs the Elida Children's Homes in Coimbatore.

Also in 1996, a group of churches in Andhra Pradesh led by Michael George requested affiliation with Open Bible. They are incorporated under the name of Open Bible Churches of India.

In 1998, Ron and Linda Wilson were appointed as non-resident Harvestime missionaries to direct the growing church planting initiatives in India. A partnership has been formed with International Cooperating Ministries to build churches in India and many other countries where International Ministries is presently working.

There are 507 Open Bible churches with 41,074 members, 356 ministers, and Bible schools with 1,181 students. INSTE was initiated in English in 2006 when Gary Johnson was trained by the international INSTE directors. Gary also directed the beginning of the translation of INSTE into the Tamil language, which is being continued by Anna Paul and a team of translators. Gary left India in 2007 and Marlo Philip became the INSTE director in the English language. In 2010 the first classes graduated from Level One INSTE, a total of 24 graduates.

John Paul and Michael George serve as field directors.

INSTE

The INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) international office is located in Ankeny, Iowa. INSTE was pioneered and developed in Spain by Open Bible missionary Dr. Leona Janzen Venditti. INSTE (pronounced in-stay) is a multi-national, multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-denominational, college-level theological training institute that works with local churches in training disciples and leaders for Christian service. Their motto is: **Helping churches make disciples and develop leaders.** Their mission is to partner with the local church in training men and women to be spiritually vibrant, biblically sound, theologically balanced ministers equipped and Spirit empowered to fulfill the Great Commission.

INSTE is a two-level course. Level One is Discipleship Training, a two-year, four-course study requiring an hour a day of personal study time and two hours a week of class time. This level is intended for any believer who wants to grow in his/her walk with the Lord. Level Two is Leadership Training, a 24-course study (four courses per semester for three years) requiring at least two hours a day study time and a two-hour weekly group meeting. These students are those who are recognized as leaders of the local church and serve in some leadership capacity within the church. Classes are held in local churches in groups of five to ten students, with a trained facilitator/mentor. Facilitators are mature believers whose leadership is recognized by the local church body.

INSTE has been or is being translated into twelve languages: Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Tagalog and Cebuano (Philippines), Mandarin Chinese and Tamil (in India). In addition, translation has begun in an unnamed language to be used in a Central Asian country. Preparations are underway to begin a translation into Hindi.

This ministry is greatly impacting churches and people worldwide. Under the direction of Doctors Nick and Leona Venditti, INSTE has expanded to over 30 countries. At the present time INSTE is being used in eight countries of South America, six countries of Central America, four countries in the Caribbean, two countries of Western Europe, three countries of Eastern Europe, four countries of Africa, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and four French colonies.

Currently there are over 10,000 students worldwide.

Drs. Nick and Leona Venditti are the international directors.

JAMAICA

Ivan and Kaye Morton were appointed in 1949 as the first Open Bible missionaries to Jamaica. A number of missionaries eventually assisted in the establishment of Open Bible in Jamaica. The work was nationalized in March 1974.

There are 51 churches on the island with 7,118 members and 79 credentialed ministers. Some of the churches have congregations of 500 or more. First Church of the Open Bible in Kingston ministers to 2,300 people during the Sunday morning services. The Bible institute has 98 students. Other ministries include a dental and medical clinic, a radio program and kindergarten schools. In 1992 the government honored Open Bible by printing postage stamps with a picture of the Open Bible Church in Kingston. First Church in Kingston also has a multi-purpose facility, which includes a library for children and a dental and medical clinic.

Hugh Elliston serves as the field director.

JAPAN

Three young G.I. Open Bible Institute students were drawn back to the land where they were stationed during the war. The Phil Rounds, Jacob Collins and Eddie Karnes families were sent as missionaries to Japan in 1950. The work was nationalized in 1967 when the Rounds family returned to the States.

Open Bible has 16 churches with 750 members and 57 credentialed ministers. There are six Bible college students. The Open Bible church in Kobe began an English Academy in 1980. This ministry teaches English as a second language, using the Bible as the text.

Only 1% of the population is evangelical Christian. The door stands open for evangelizing the "Land of the Sun."

In August 2005 the Open Bible Churches of Japan celebrated their 50th anniversary. The ministry is blessed with dedicated, anointed ministers and leaders who are boldly proclaiming the gospel. The churches are also blessed with a large number of young people who are very active in the church.

Wataru Sugahara is the field director.

KENYA

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Holmburg were sent to Uganda, East Africa, under the auspices of Elim Fellowship in 1969. The work grew and extended from eastern Uganda to western Kenya. They were forced to flee the country in 1973 during the reign of Idi Amin. The pastors remained in contact with Mrs. Holmburg and her son, Rev. Richard Douglas. Affiliation with Open Bible Churches was granted in June 1983.

Open Bible has 82 churches with 9,580 members and 140 credentialed ministers. There are many pastors whose congregations meet wherever they can, such as under trees. One of the churches operates a primary school. Open Bible also cares for as many as 50 orphans.

Andrew and Emily Clark were appointed as missionaries in 1987 to assist the pastors with discipleship and leadership training. Theological Education by Extension (T.E.E.) materials developed and used in Haiti were translated into Swahili. The Clarks returned to the U.S. in June 1997 and the T.E.E. program was nationalized.

Patrick Okumu is the field director.

LIBERIA

Lucille Jenkins (Mitchell) was appointed as the first Open Bible Standard Churches missionary in 1935. Eventually River Cess was selected as the site on which to build a mission station. The work grew to include ministries in Monrovia and Lower Buchanan as well as many outposts. Over the years, many missionaries served Open Bible in Liberia.

Liberia was nationalized in 1979. The churches elected Mark Kangar, a young man reached by the preaching of the gospel in Liberia, as the first superintendent of the work. Mark was appointed National Missionary in May 1981. Lue Ann, his wife, and children left Liberia in 1990 because of the civil war. Mark left Liberia in 1991.

Open Bible has 32 churches with 3,000 members and 47 credentialed ministers, as well as a medical clinic. The Open Bible Church in Monrovia ministers to 600 people. A day school was started in Monrovia in November 1992 that has now grown into an elementary school. The INSTE program was initiated in 2007 and now has 20 students.

Charles Barwon is the field director.

MEXICO

The Open Bible work officially started in 1965 with the arrival of the Paul Canfield family. The first years were given to beginning works in La Quemada and Tala, near Guadalajara, the second largest city. Later First Church of the Open Bible was established in Guadalajara, which is now the center of our ministry in Mexico. Open Bible was established in the southern peninsula of Chetumal when a member of the church in Tala moved and began several new works.

Don and Margaret Smith were appointed as missionaries in 1993 and served in Guadalajara until 2001. The Steve Rogers family served one term in the Guadalajara area.

Puente de Amistad, a short-term missions base in Tijuana, was opened in January 1992. Groups from the United States, primarily youth, visit this base and experience missions firsthand. Ed Daley was director of Puente de Amistad ministry base in Tijuana from 1991 to 1999. In 1999 Ed was redeployed to Argentina. At that time, Lisle and Shirley Sultzbaugh were appointed as directors of Puente de Amistad. They left the staff at the end of 2007. In July 2007 the Mike Brandt family was redeployed to Tijuana, Mexico. Mikes serves as the director of the Puente de Amistad ministry base. In 2006 Lawrence and Bertha Kelley were granted missionary appointment and joined the Puente de Amistad staff in Tijuana, Mexico, in 2007. Other missionaries have also served at the Puente de Amistad base.

Bill and Fayth McConnell of Nogales, Arizona, were appointed as Harvestime missionaries in 1998 to northern Mexico. They minister at a rehab center, a children's ministry in Imuris, and in prisons in Nogales, Mexico, and have expanded their outreaches to San Luis. In 2007, Del and Joy Brown were appointed to join the McConnells in their varied ministries.

Open Bible has 33 churches with 1,923 members and 35 credentialed ministers. Armando and Elizabeth Rhon, directors of INSTE, report 1,820 INSTE students.

The work was nationalized in 1994. Arturo Mendez Jr. was elected in 2009 as the national field director and president of the Open Bible incorporation.

NICARAGUA

Nelson and Tirsa Gaitán were born in Nicaragua. Both of their parents were pastors. During the Nicaraguan civil war in the mid 1980s, Nelson took refuge in the U.S. and met Tirsa, who was visiting the U.S. After the Gaitáns were married a year later, the Lord led them to the Open Bible Church in Pico Rivera, California. They began the INSTE program in 1990 and graduated from the Level Two in 1995.

The Gaitáns received Harvestime appointment with the Department of International Ministries and in February 2003 they returned to Nicaragua and began an Open Bible church in San Marcos. About 240 people now attend the church. They also hold regular services in three other locations. In addition they conduct evangelism and humanitarian outreaches. The INSTE program has been initiated to develop leaders and currently there are 25 INSTE students in Open Bible, plus additional students from other denominations now studying the program.

In February 2006 the M.O.V.E. (Men of Vision Evangelize) team consisting of 41 men built the first phase of the Open Bible Church in San Marcos. In 2008 the MOVE team returned to complete the second phase of the church building.

Nelson Gaitán serves as field director.

NIGERIA

Okon Obot, a Nigerian, attended Florida Beacon College in Largo, Florida. After graduation he was granted National Missionary Appointment and returned home in September 1989 to pioneer an Open Bible church. There are now 24 churches with 1,162 members and 13 credentialed ministers. INSTE began in 1998 and currently there are 12 students.

The primary ministry thrust is evangelistic crusades. Many churches have been established as a result. The growth and dynamic nature of the Church, in spite of the negative economic and political stresses, is cause for praise.

Okon Obot is the field director.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wally and Phyllis Lee went to Papua New Guinea as independent missionaries in 1971. They joined Open Bible Churches in 1973 and established the Ivingoi Mission Station in the Eastern Highlands. Approximately 20,000 patients are treated annually in the medical clinic, which is currently managed by the national church leaders and staffed by Papua New Guineans. Funds for the building of a maternity ward for the clinic were raised by Women's Ministries in the U.S. and construction began in 2008. In addition, the station maintains several self-help projects, such as coffee, gardens, cattle and a saw mill.

There are 28 Open Bible churches and 50 credentialed ministers ministering to 1,122 members. A Bible institute is on the Ivingoi Mission property.

Numerous missionaries have served in Papua New Guinea. After the 25th anniversary, the official nationalization process was initiated.

The Goroka church was planted in 1999 and the M.O.V.E. construction team built a permanent structure in March 2001. The Mike Brandt family was appointed in 1996 and faithfully worked and ministered alongside the national pastors and established the INSTE program. In 2006 Open Bible Churches of Papua New Guinea were nationalized and in 2007, the last missionary family, Mike and Cathy Brandt and their children, Mikayla and Aaron, departed the country. The national leaders have plans to reach other urban areas. They continue to manage the mission station and foster growth among the village pastors and churches.

Joseph Cassey was elected as national president in 2008 and serves as field director.

PARAGUAY

The Open Bible ministry in Paraguay is an extension of the work in Argentina. It was affiliated with Open Bible Churches USA in June 1982. Open Bible has 6 churches with 330 members and 15 credentialed ministers. The INSTE program has 19 students. Evangelical church growth has been slow, but the numbers more than doubled in the 1980s. The Open Bible church in Hernandarias operates an elementary school, Mizpa, which now has 84 students.

Agapito Morinigo is the field director.

PERU

Open Bible was established in Peru through outreaches of the Open Bible churches in Argentina. Open Bible now has 6 churches with 280 members and 8 credentialed ministers. Eighteen students are enrolled in the INSTE program.

Maria Mestanza is the field director.

PHILIPPINES

Open Bible initiated the work in Mindanao in June 1978 with the appointment of Bob and Mardell Brewer and the Paul Townsend family. The ministry began with several churches with national pastors, a Bible institute and T.E.E.

Philippine Open Bible Ministries now includes 36 churches with 2,120 members and 43 credentialed ministers. Four churches are established in Manila. INSTE was initiated in September 1994 and currently has 68 students. INSTE was nationalized in October 2000 and is directed by Raphael Quiñones. Pastor Quiñones also has a pilot program of a pastors' training school in the church he pastors in Quezon City, and is training five young men to be pastors.

Many missionaries have served in the Philippines, including Paul and Jan Townsend, who served for 20 years and returned to the States in March 2001. Missionary Laura Hill assisted in the INSTE program until returning home in 2004. She also ministered in other areas including the Payatas Garbage Dump ministry to children, directed by Marivic Goloy.

Raphael Quiñones is the POBM president and serves as the field director.

PUERTO RICO

The Tuto Morales family was sent from their home church in Miami, Florida, to this Spanish-speaking island to open a work in 1954. A church was soon established in Moca. Widespread evangelism, a large missionary input and a responsive people have resulted in nearly 30% of the population becoming Protestant during the past generation.

There are two churches with 100 members and 6 credentialed ministers.

Marta Morales serves as the field director.

ROMANIA

The Open Bible work began as an outreach of Voice for Christ Open Bible Church in Clayton, Ohio, when Karen Rose was sent as a missionary. She was granted Harvestime appointment in May 1992. Karen's ministry included outreaches in orphanages and a prison ministry, as well as distributing humanitarian aid. Karen resigned as an Open Bible missionary in November 2004.

George Ratiu established a church in Gherla and a beautiful building was built for the glory of the Lord. There are 5 Open Bible churches with a total of 100 members, and 3 credentialed ministers. The members of the Gherla church continue to reach out to nearby communities. INSTE Level One has been translated into Romanian and the INSTE group at the Gherla church has six students.

John Pop is the pastor of the Gherla church and serves as field director.

ST. VINCENT

The Open Bible ministry began in September 1981 as a cooperative effort with the Open Bible Churches of Trinidad. The Bill Jimenez family was appointed from the U.S. and the Errol Ramdass family from Trinidad. Both of these families have returned to their own countries. David Wiltshire and his family from Trinidad served as field director for a number of years; they have now returned to Trinidad.

Open Bible has three churches with a total of 294 members and three credentialed ministers. Seven students are studying in the INSTE program. The work is under the leadership of the Open Bible Churches in Trinidad.

Conroy Jack is the pastor of the church in Kingstown and serves as the field director.

SIERRA LEONE

Milton Godwin traveled to Sierra Leone from Guinea to pioneer a church in Freetown. He established three Bible study groups. There are now 5 churches in the Freetown area with a total of 896 members, and 7 credentialed ministers. In spite of volatile political conditions, the churches are growing.

Pastor Godwin and the churches also minister in nearby refugee and amputee camps as well as to the people slums and prisons in Freetown. A pre-school outreach at the Congo Town church has expanded and now includes an elementary school through Grade 6. The school is a great blessing and witness to the surrounding community. A school was begun in the Off-Liechester Road church in the fall of 2009.

Milton Godwin is the field director.

SOUTH KOREA

In October 2006 the Korea Conservative Church Association, a covering organization which is recognized by the Korean government, approved the Korea Open Bible Churches registration. The Department of International Ministries, Open Bible Churches USA has recognized Esther Moon as the president and field director of the Korea Open Bible Churches. She is recognized for leadership abilities, the evident calling upon her life and her commitment to the Lord and to Open Bible Churches.

An office facility has been rented for the Open Bible national office and also serves as a chapel for the new pioneer church pastored by Esther Moon and Hwan Kyu Choi, her pastor. Five churches with a total of 110 members have affiliated with the new Korea Open Bible Churches. There are 12 credentialed ministers.

Dr. David Shim has served as the official liaison between the Korea Open Bible Churches and the Department of International Ministries.

Esther Moon serves as field director.

SPAIN

In 1969 Don and Margaret Smith were appointed to establish a new work in Spain. Barcelona was selected as the central location. In 1971, Cuban refugees Rodolfo and Raquel Loyola settled in Madrid and began an Open Bible church there. The work has grown and now includes 8 churches with 400 members and 9 credentialed ministers.

Dr. Leona Janzen (Venditti) was sent to Spain in 1981 to establish a discipleship and leadership-training program. She discovered it would be necessary to write the program. INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) was birthed. (See INSTE page.) Shortly after its inception there were 750 students, which made INSTE the largest evangelical training

program in Spain and possibly in all of Europe. Vince and Lois McCarty were appointed to Spain in 1983 and spent six years assisting in the INSTE program. The INSTE program is now nationalized and currently has 513 students.

Nick Venditti, an American living in Spain, became a Christian and enrolled in the INSTE studies. He and Dr. Janzen were married in 1987. They returned to the States, where Nick earned a doctorate in missions degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. They continue to direct INSTE Global as it expands into other countries.

The field was nationalized in 1992. Ferrán Jové is the field director.

SURINAME

The Open Bible Standard Churches of Trinidad and Tobago sent missionaries Amzad and Rosemarie Mohammed to Suriname in July 2005 to establish a new church. The Mohammeds have three children: Aaron, Arianna and Adam.

The two churches they started when they arrived were merged into one church, with about 90 people attending. A convention center that will seat 1,000 was purchased and renovated. In addition to being used for their church, they rent the building for special events to generate income for the church and the pastors. The vision is to establish an indigenous church movement that will be self supporting, self governing, and self propagating. The Missions Board of the Open Bible Standard Churches of Trinidad and Tobago has been very supportive in the initiation of this new work. In 2008, the Mohammeds completed their missions term and returned to Trinidad.

The church is established with national leadership and is under the supervision of the Trinidad missions department.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

Open Bible began to minister in Trinidad in 1954 under the leadership of Kaare and Jean Wilhelmsen. Several Open Bible missionaries served in Trinidad and developed the churches, the high school and the Bible school. The work continued with American missionaries until April 1972 when it was nationalized.

Open Bible currently has 66 churches in Trinidad with about 16,000 members and 142 credentialed ministers. There are three Bible institutes with 143 students, a radio

broadcast, and a Christian high school. The INSTE program, directed by Ann Marie Homer, has 230 students. Open Bible Churches of Trinidad has sent missionaries to Grenada, Guyana, St. Vincent, Aruba, Venezuela, and Suriname, and also currently have credentialed ministers in Colombia and Bonaire.

Because of the atmosphere of missions fervor in OBSC – Trinidad, this location was chosen for the 2010 launching of the first School of Global Leadership, directed by missionaries Mike and Pam Lombard.

Dr. Andy Homer is the field director.

UGANDA

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Holmburg were sent to Uganda, East Africa, under the auspices of Elim Fellowship. The work grew and extended from eastern Uganda to western Kenya. They were forced to flee the country in 1973 during the reign of Idi Amin. The pastors remained in contact with Mrs. Holmburg and her son, Rev. Richard Douglas. Affiliation was granted with Open Bible Churches in June 1983.

Open Bible has 108 churches with 6,604 members and 99 credentialed ministers. International Cooperating Ministries partnered with Open Bible to build 18 church buildings. Andrew Clark, former missionary to Kenya, initiated the T.E.E. program, now translated from Swahili to Luganda. One and a half acres of land was given to Open Bible on which to construct a national headquarters facility and church building in Bugiri. The church in the capital city of Kampala ministers to homeless children. Four churches operate orphanages.

INSTE was begun in 2007 and currently has 24 students in other organizations.

Jackson Mugerwa is the field director.

UKRAINE

In 1998 a group of churches in Zhitomir contacted Open Bible to seek information regarding possible affiliation. Following a field-planning trip by Vince McCarty in November 1998, this group of churches was granted Open Bible affiliation. The group of churches is now led by Pastor Oleksandr Rudynets, pastor of the Open Bible church in Lutsk. The churches are also involved in humanitarian and benevolence outreaches.

INSTE Level One and Level Two have been translated into Russian and initiated in Ukraine, directed by missionary Tammy Swailes. The first graduation of Level Two INSTE students was celebrated in October 2008 with 22 graduates from four churches. A translation of INSTE into Ukrainian is being done. There are a total of 500 INSTE students in Ukraine. Missionary Tammy Swailes lives in Ukraine and serves as the INSTE director for Europe. She travels extensively in Ukraine to promote the program and train new leaders. She often travels to Hungary, Romania, France, England, and Spain to oversee the INSTE programs in these countries. She has traveled to other European nations to meet with others interested in the INSTE program.

There are 17 churches with a total of 751 members and 83 credentialed ministers. A large headquarters church is being built in Lutsk.

The field director is Oleksandr Rudynets.

URUGUAY

Open Bible has 4 churches with 220 members and 2 credentialed ministers. The headquarters church is located in Salto, the second largest city. A church has also been established in Montevideo, the capital city. Radio programs have recently begun to minister to people in Uruguay and beyond its borders.

Juan Celada is the field director.

VENEZUELA

The Open Bible Churches of Trinidad sent Calbert Mark to Venezuela in August 1993. By the end of the year a church had been established in Ciudad Bolivar with 40 baptized members. There are now 19 churches with 3,956 members and there are 27 credentialed ministers. INSTE was started in 1996 and currently has 257 students, including those studying Level Two INSTE. The main emphasis of the ministry is evangelism and discipleship.

Calbert Mark serves as the field director.

PERSONNEL in 10/40 WINDOW COUNTRIES

Two of our missionary families minister in 10/40 Window countries where the Christian witness is not openly welcomed. For the security of their work, their names and pictures do not appear on this Web site.

One couple ministers in medical and alcohol rehabilitation ministries, reaching their community with a tangible expression of God's love.

The other couple ministers in a variety of humanitarian outreaches for the purpose of establishing relationships for personal evangelism and church planting.

Both ministries are being effective in meeting human needs and reaching those who have never heard the good news of the Gospel.