



# Bible Art Ministries

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## Newsletter November 2010

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Our Christmas card to you this year will feature an original painting we have used for many years in our Art from the Bible school presentations. It has been a favorite of many. It is the painting we use to explain the Incarnation, which the Oxford dictionary defines as "the embodiment of God the Son in human flesh as Jesus Christ."

We have grown up with Christmas pageants and nativity scenes that group the shepherds with the wisemen around the manger. It is, we recognize, a convenience, as the shepherds arrived

the night of Jesus's birth (Luke 2:5-16 When the angels had left them, the shepherds said 'Let's go to Bethlehem'...so they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger) and the magi arrived later(Matthew 2:11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh).

This painting has neither shepherds nor wise men, but does show the gifts the wise men (or magi, or kings) brought and shows Jesus as a young child, not an infant. The painting, titled "Mary and the Christ Child," was one of Gwen's favorites. I noticed in her Bible she underlined the house and wrote in

"not the stable, they moved from the stable to the house."

A few years ago at a public school in Cobourg, Ontario, Canada, the school principal placed the painting side-by-side with the painting of the Crucifixion and, speaking to the entire student body, said, "These two paintings tell the whole story of Christmas." To God be the Glory! It was the Lord who guided the artist's hand and it is His anointing that makes it meaningful. The painting has been shown and explained in thousands of schools across Canada, the USA, Jamaica, Colombia, and Ecuador. May we suggest you place the card where it can be seen as a daily prayer reminder.

Reproductions of this painting are available: \$150 for a print on canvas; \$15 for a print on paper. And copies of *Drawing Souls to Christ* are available for \$20 (all prices include tax and delivery in time for Christmas, if you call the number above by December 13).

What prayer support partners say about our newsletter is very encouraging. Reports from Bogotá are written in a way that almost transports you to the scene, and gives a glimpse into the heart and soul of students and missionaries alike. Our missionaries in Bogotá are praying people. They rise early

*Children accepting Christ, note the 'sad boy' near the back without his hand raised.*



to pray before beginning the journey to the schools. They also need our prayers every single day.

Winning the lost to faith in Christ and teaching them through Bible correspondence courses is our continual purpose and goal. We thank God for you. You are very special to us. And we pray for you daily. May the Lord bless you real good.

*Rev. Stan Crookall*

## Report from Colombia

*By German Roza*

We send warmest greetings in the name of Jesus to each supporter.

### SIGNS

The big signs are getting rusty, so we did some maintenance – took the verses down, sanded and painted the frames and structures, then put new verses up a few days later after the paint had dried.

At one church where we have a big sign outside, the pastor reports that while the sign was down for repair, a neighbour popped into the back of the church during the sermon, and shouted: “What has happened with the verse, it is not here. I read it every day. Please, put it up again.”

The verse for November was Psalm 119 v17: Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live, and keep Your word.

### BUSES

Julio was on a bus, to go to schools to pick up completed correspondence lessons, when police stopped the bus and checked all the passengers. They found one woman had a gun. These things encourage us to share the word of God



*Workers assembling a giant Christmas tree.*

on buses, as there is a need. Often thieves/pickpockets are on the bus. They hear the word of God, as we share “the message of repentance and salvation in Jesus.” Omar and I meet a man that was thief and the word of God changed his style of life. It can be the same way when the thieves hear the word of God.

We have given out about 5,000 gospel tracts on buses this year.

### SCHOOLS

After I share the word of God, I invite the students to raise their hands if they want to receive Jesus into their hearts. In one class of 10 to 12 year-olds, all the students but one raised their hands. A girl asked him, “Why do you not raise your hand?” The boy had a sad expression. I asked why he had a sad face? He answered: “Everyone in my family does bad things, including me, that’s why I didn’t raise my hand.”

Thanks to God, the Holy Spirit came to my mind with the verse Mark 2:17 and I explained to the boy that Jesus loves the sinner but not the sin, that Jesus came to look for the lost, that Jesus comes for the sick because the healthy people do not need a doctor. Before I had finished explaining, he raised his hand.

I felt blessed to see the happy face of this boy when he understood the invitation.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Let the children come to me.” Your support is part of God’s purpose.

### BIBLE CLUB

Schools have closed for the summer/Christmas break. We are working extra time to mark lessons and prepare certificates. About 4,000 children have participated; we will give you exact numbers next month.

Please, pray for Luis Acevedo, the husband of Aura, one of our volunteer course markers. He is recovering from a heart operation.

### CHRISTMAS

Christmas is getting closer. People have started arranging their houses, painting the sidewalks with red and green, and the parks and shopping centers are putting up their lights and ornaments. Stores are playing Christmas music.

At this time of gift-giving, special food and meeting with the family, we pray for this time to be really special in our hearts, recognizing God’s great gift, His son Jesus Christ. We also pray for those who have not yet accepted this beautiful gift from God.