



BAPTIST COURIERS FOR CHRIST

EST 1979

APRIL 2026

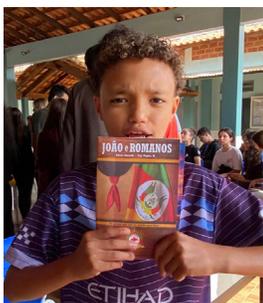


A WELCOME SURPRISE

by Ken Stertz

The November trip to Brazil was a kind of welcome surprise in many ways. Each campaign has its own kind of personality. We're reminded of what the late radio commentator Paul Harvey would often say, "It's not all one world." The Brazilian people by and large were warm and welcoming, unlike some places where we have worked. The public schools in Brazil were very open to evangelization, and that was a blessed answer to prayer. We were surprised that there was no open resistance to our sharing the gospel with them. Teachers were happy to have

our Couriers teams come to their schools. Assemblies were called where several of our men gave testimonies, and each student received his own John and Romans booklet and a gospel tract. Many of our young team members were swamped with questions by inquisitive students. Most all these young folks had never had the opportunity to speak with an American let alone a whole group of Americans! We went away with hearts that were warmed by knowing that the seed of the gospel had been planted in humble young minds in a time they will long remember.



Above: Young man excited to receive his own copy of John and Romans



At right: Ken distributing John and Romans to students



Above: One of our team members Olivia Navratil (standing) with some of the young ladies at the school

Top left: Teacher and student with Tricia

Top right: School boys asking Caleb questions

HISTORY Highlights

BULGARIAN PASTOR ALEXOR KATRONOV

by Don Stertz

After the demise of communism, American missionaries began to travel into these Eastern Bloc countries to try and start churches. One missionary Jeff Krontz was trying to start a church on the outskirts of Sofia. He had heard about the city-wide Couriers for Christ scripture distribution campaigns that helped missionaries start churches and contacted me to ask if we could hold one in Sofia, Bulgaria. Prior to holding a campaign we always take a preliminary trip to set up things prior to taking a team of 30-plus people into the country. Arrangements were made, and Ken, Larry, and I traveled to Sofia.

After many preparations were set for the campaign, Brother Krontz asked if we'd like to meet an elderly Bulgarian pastor. Why, of course we would! So we traveled about eighty kilometers outside of Sofia up into the foothills of the mountains to his over 400-year-old house. The doorway was only about five feet high, so we had to duck down in order to enter the house. In that small room was an upright piano and, on the right, a narrow bed to which Alexor was confined. Brother Krontz knew another missionary who was fluent in Bulgarian and invited him along to translate for us. Praise the Lord for his help! After introductions were made, Alexor told his story. He was now in his 80s and had pastored for many years. He told us that he had to travel by bus, tram, and train because of not owning a car. With much of that time spent traveling, he wanted to use the time wisely and read his Bible. However, to openly carry a Bible in Bulgaria was extremely dangerous, so what could he do about that dilemma? He decided to take the cover off his Bible and place the cover of *Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin over his Bible. One day while he was seated on a train reading his Bible, two police officers boarded the train. They were not far from Alexor and were watching him. Finally, one asked him, "What are you reading?" Alexor held up his Bible so the police could see the cover of Darwin's book, and the officer said, "That is a good book!" Alexor replied, "Yes, it is a very good book."



Don with Pastor Alexander (Alexor)

Then Pastor Alexor told of the difficulties of being arrested, imprisoned, and even tortured because he was a pastor of a Baptist church. He said that if he did not concede to his captors' demands, that they would place shackles on his ankles, then hang him upside down, supported by the shackles, and beat his legs with rods. Because of such torture Alexor was eventually crippled, but did he stop preaching? NO! At church a chair would be set in front, the men would help him to the chair, and he would preach. Now that he was old, he was bed-ridden.

We asked if he or his wife played the piano. We found out that she did. This dear lady with crippled, arthritic hands sat down by that piano, and you would never know that she had any issues with her hands. She knew many of the hymns that we also knew, so she played and sang in Bulgarian and we in English. After

about an hour of singing we stopped and Pastor Alexor asked us, "Why are you really here in Bulgaria?" I explained to him that we were going to bring into Sofia a container of John and Romans and Bibles along with a team of around 35 Americans to distribute them throughout Sofia. Before I was able to complete telling him all about how a campaign worked, I noticed big tears running down his cheeks, so I stopped talking. Then Alexor told that when he was in prison, that Haralan Popov and he were confined in the same cell. They would pray together and beg God to somehow get his word to the Bulgarian people in Sofia. He said that this could be the beginning of the answer to those prayers!

We left his home with our hearts full and richly blessed by spending time with this choice servant of the Lord.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

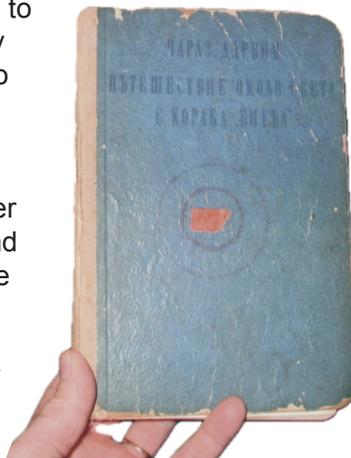
- John 15:7 -

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

- Isaiah 65:24 -

Pray without ceasing. - I Thessalonians 5:17 -

Our Lord answers fervent prayer!



Cover of book used believed to mask Bible

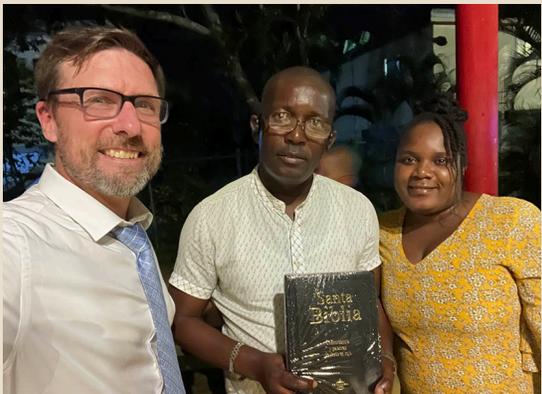


It started with our EPIC (Evangelizing People In the Caribbean) 2025 trip to the Samana Peninsula, Dominican Republic. The Lord really blessed our endeavors there and knit our hearts with national pastor Carlos Mora and his wife Sara. Carlos was born and raised in the DR and was saved in his youth as a result of the outreach of American missionary Steve Sidler. He was trained in the ministry of brother Sidler, and the Lord called him to plant a church in El Limon, DR, on the Samana Peninsula. Three years have transpired, and God has blessed the efforts of the Moras as they have a young church plant started and growing. When we were preparing to return home last year, the Moras asked us to consider coming to work with them again in the near future. The Lord has placed on my heart the vision to offer some **Gospel Outreach (GO)** trips in this hemisphere along with our standard European CFC Campaigns. I will write an article in the upcoming months that further explains these and will list some future opportunities to get involved. This one was the first as we worked for the second consecutive year with the Mora family. We held a youth VBS/Teen Conference for three evenings, a Saturday basketball tournament, and a Friend Sunday evangelistic service. We had over 125 visitors between all the events and more than a dozen people received Christ as their Saviour! Our team of 20 Americans loved working side-by-side with the Moras as we canvassed multiple towns and villages with Spanish tracts (supplied by Chick Publications--many thanks to them for their generosity) and invitations to the

various events. At the events our team members had the opportunity to give Bibles to those new believers who had trusted Christ as Saviour. We also heard stories from the Moras and were reacquainted with people that had gotten saved last year. Some of them were steadily growing in the Lord and still possessed the Bibles that they had received in 2025!

Our two team leaders (besides myself) were partner pastors--Roger Harrison and Kevin Sproles. Pastor Kevin wrote this to me following the trip.

"Success is measured in many different ways. The word success is found in the Bible only on one occasion. In Joshua 1:8 the Lord promises success to Joshua. If Joshua would proclaim the word of the law, meditate in it and obey it, then God would make Joshua's way prosperous and he would have good success. It seems that in the mind of God, success is the fulfilling of his will as we learn to obey his word. The Lord is telling Joshua, as a representative of all men, that when our mouth is full of the word of God, our heart is meditating on the word of God, and our life follows after the word of God, then we have acted wisely, and that, in the eyes of God, is success. According to this definition, the 2026 CFC Gospel Outreach in El Limon, Samana, Dominican Republic, can be said to be a success. The gospel was proclaimed, the word of God was in the minds of the team, and a Christian testimony was left behind in El Limon (and several villages surrounding it). This is success! God's people, doing God's will of furthering his word in the world."



This gentleman needed a large print Bible for his aging eyes.



Gilberto led this man to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.



Kayla presented this new believer with his first Bible, and Pastor Carlos will disciple him.



Pray for the Containers En Route

Please pray for the containers that have been recently sent by CFC and our partner churches to Europe. We have sent one container to missionary Brad Lowrie in Croatia and two containers to Germany (one to missionary Scott Poling in Berlin and the other to missionary Patrick Jobway in Stuttgart). We are taking a team of Americans in mid-June to Stuttgart to distribute as many of the John and Romans as the people in that region will receive over a two-week period. It is a blessing, as a result of the faithful monthly support of our partner churches, to ship the word of God to the regions beyond. These containers are filled with John and Romans produced by Bearing Precious Seed of Milford, Ohio, and assembled by BPS of Oshkosh as well as the BPS Seedline churches. What a privilege it is to be labourers together with God that he may get all the glory for the remaining fruit as a result of his word being spread around the world! **But the word of God grew and multiplied.** - Acts 12:24 -



WYLDEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
 3030 Witzel Ave.
 Oshkosh, WI 54904-6599
 www.wyldewood.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Oshkosh, WI
 Permit No. 441

DIRECTOR

Rev. Joshua Stertz

**FOUNDER/ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR**

Rev. Donald Stertz

REPRESENTATIVES

Rev. Kenneth Stertz

Rev. Larry Ingalls

Rev. John Meyer

Opposed to all forms of compromise and deviation from God's Word.



Please scan the code at left
to visit our ministry web pages
for more information.

A ministry of  Wyldewood Baptist Church