

Go Preach the Gospel



To the Whole World

“How Shall They Hear?”

**Training Men to Preach in Their Native Lands
A Work of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver**

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Gary and Asuncion Students

THE ASUNCION BIBLE ACADEMY IN PARAGUAY, SOUTH AMERICA

The Asuncion Bible Academy began classes **March 11, 2013** to train faithful brethren how to preach, teach, and become better servants in the Lord's kingdom. It is a work of the **Avenida Sacramento Iglesia de Cristo in Paraguay, South America**. Brethren recognized the need to equip others to teach in the Paraguayan languages--Spanish and Guarani (an Indian dialect). Although anyone can learn and speak Guarani, only a native Paraguayan Guarani really knows how to communicate with another Paraguayan.

For this reason, the church in Asuncion began working with the **Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver in March 2012** to plant and develop more congregations in Paraguay. The school has **five** full-time students. One student also studies part-time, and several members regularly attend various classes.

Paraguay, a country of more than 7,000,000 people, only has two congregations of the Lord's church. The fields are truly **“white unto harvest”**,

so we are praying that God will use the Asuncion Bible Academy as one of His tools for evangelizing the lost in this part of the world.

The Sacramento Avenue congregation has **90 members**. It was planted in **2003** by missionaries from Freed-Hardeman University. Since then, the original team has recruited several new missionaries as replacements to carry on the work. God has blessed the congregation with continual growth through various evangelistic efforts--door-knocking campaigns, special seminars, and teaching English using the Bible. As the brethren continue to mature spiritually, their hope is to appoint elders. They also plan to support their first national missionary and plant another congregation in a nearby suburb of Asuncion.

Troy Spradlin, missionary to Paraguay since February 2010 and graduate of the Southwest School of Bible Studies in Austin, Texas, is the Director of the Academy. Troy is a native Texan and is working toward his Master's Degree in Bible from Bear Valley. He and his wife, Andrea, are sponsored by the **Margaret Street Church in Milton, FL**. They have made a commitment to the work for seven years. Before moving to South America, they were active members at the **Palm Beach Lakes congregation in West Palm Beach, Florida**. Palm Beach Lakes is also the stateside financial administrator for the Asuncion Bible Academy.

To learn more about the work, please visit the mission team's website www.paraguaymission.com

—Troy Spradlin

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DESTINATION PARAGUAY

In the last ten years, I have made ten trips into **Spanish speaking countries of the Central/South American continent** to teach God's word in the Extension Schools of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver. I have taught in Panama, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru. **Paraguay** is my latest destination.

The trip itself was a **"trying"** experience. Thursday, **June 6**, I tried to fly from Dallas to Miami and then directly to Asuncion. Engine trouble developed, and the plane left three hours late. Therefore, I missed my connection and had to over-night in Miami. **Friday, June 7**, I tried once again to fly to Asuncion. Once again, another plane developed engine trouble. To make a long story short, I tried for the third time late **Saturday night, June 8**, and finally arrived in Asuncion **Sunday morning June 9**. I had traveled half way around the world frequently in less time!

However, once I arrived, everything was great! I **worshipped** with the Sacramento Avenue church in Asuncion Sunday morning. I was originally scheduled to preach but arrived too late. Josh Blackmer preached an excellent lesson. His power-point presentation greatly aided my comprehension of Spanish. Therefore, I saved my lesson for Wednesday evening. .

I began class Monday morning with **five students**. This number of students is really a good beginning since the country only has two congregations. The class is conducted in the Sacramento Avenue building. I taught eight hours a day since my return flight was Friday morning. Classes are interrupted by a student chapel which meets everyday at 9:15 AM. I did not know that I was scheduled to speak but used a favorite sermon from the past. This is why a preacher had advised me to always be prepared with a spare sermon.

I was assigned to teach the **Godhead**, *La Deidad*. In January I had previously taught the same course in India. With the help of Google Translator and Pablo Arista, I translated my English notes into Spanish so the students would have the course in their own language. Pablo, a Christian at Bridgewood in Fort Worth, has begun a Spanish

ministry where we attend. Pablo has asked me to teach the same course in Spanish at Bridgewood. I solicit your prayers for this endeavor.

I followed the natural order of the **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** with a test after each section. I endeavored to show the relationship of Deity, the Trinity, both their unity and distinction. I wanted the students to understand that the Godhead is the foundation of our faith. Without the unified work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, there could be no cross, no hope and no salvation. The apostle Paul establishes this truth in Eph. 4:1-6

In addition to the in-class tests, the students did a **research paper** the following week as a research assignment. Once the assignments were completed, Troy Spradlin, the Director, sent me both the last tests and research paper as attachments. I have learned enough Spanish to read and grade the assignments, relieving the local teachers of that task.

With my usual good fortune, I established a good relationship with **Enrique, Paulo, Karen, William and Ramon**. Somehow, the students were able to adjust to my eccentricity. It was a thrill to observe their interest in class, eat with them and watch them play a form of two-man soccer (football) popular in Paraguay. I am scheduled to teach 2 Corinthians in Asuncion about the same time in 2014.

All three **American missionaries** were gone shortly after I arrived, making me wonder if they had heard about me before! Actually, **Perry Hardin**, who communicated with me before my arrival, was already home on furlough. **Josh Blackmer**, who picked me up at the airport, left the day after I arrived, and **Troy Spradlin, the Director**, returned from furlough on Tuesday. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with Troy, who is in his fourth year as a missionary in Paraguay.

The church and the school are in very capable hands. First and most important, they are in the Lord's hands. Second, the native Paraguayans and the American brethren are working tirelessly and harmoniously together to teach the lost and build up the church in the country of Paraguay.

—Gary Fallis

WHAT OTHER ARE SAYING ABOUT SARAH'S BOOK: "THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION"

“Sarah, you are giving me a lot of in-depth knowledge to pass on to my 1st and 2nd grade class, and I am only in chapter 6!” **Karla Sparks**, *preacher's wife at White Rock church of Christ, Dallas*

“I'm using this in my 4th through 6th grade Wednesday evening class. We just finished Chapter 3, and the children love it!” **Pam Harris**, *teacher and deacon's wife at Bridgewood in Fort Worth, where we attend.*

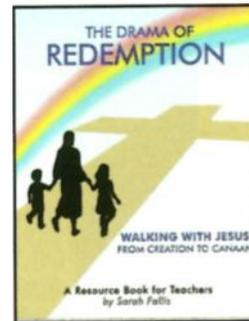
“I just started reading your book a few days ago, and I couldn't stop. I am so happy to find this tool to help teachers be better channels of Biblical information.” **Debbie Bumbalough**, *Christian Woman and Gospel Advocate, Nashville, TX.*

“Sarah helps our students know God, not just about God. She gives effective tools, ideas and even specific words to say, so that even young children can learn to trace the purpose of God all the way from “before the beginning”... She uses the greater portion of the book to teach us the deeper meaning in the stories we're accustomed to telling—Jacob's ladder, blood sacrifices, holy days, or even priestly garments. If you teach the Old Testament, you need this book. If you teach the New Testament, you need this book... Even if you are not a teacher, you need to read this book for your own spiritual growth. In each of the 20 chapters, I learned something I had not considered before.” **Sandi Smith**, *teacher in Wives' Program at the Brown Trail School of Preaching.*

“I wanted to let you know that Dan Morrow from the Mesquite Church of Christ enjoyed the section of your book on Abraham and Isaac. The camp purchased a copy of your book for each of the teachers. Dan did exactly what you intended for teachers to do. He studied the material, thought it was clear and well-reasoned and then presented it to a group of 4th – 5th graders in a clear and easy to understand manner.” **Jon McKenzie**, *youth director for the Bridgewood Church of Christ in Fort Worth, TX*

THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION
by Sarah Fallis, WestBow Press, 2013,
260 pages, paperback, F81064, \$15.00.

As adult learners, we are aware that Jesus was “in the beginning” and, later, became a man. But when you teach this to children, you realize just how much He was involved with the Father in establishing a redemption plan for all mankind. Sarah Fallis has compiled this teacher resource



book that helps children (and adults) fully bridge the Old Testament teachings with the New Testament.

Fallis is a serious student of the Bible and uses a wide variety of sources to help corroborate her work. Well-read, she quotes many other current and previous century scholars, making this book a valuable resource for teachers of all ages.

Fallis takes the book of Genesis and shows how Christ foreshadows the Lamb that would be slain for our sins. She gives a beautiful explanation of how the foundation of atonement was established in the Garden of Eden. Once again, we can be thankful for the grace of redemption; we can teach children Satan is not in control.

This book continues through the stories of Noah and his faith; Melchizedek, a shadow of Christ; and Abraham and Isaac, whom God provided with the ram on Mount Moriah. Jesus' shadow was in the Jewish feast day, through the wilderness wanderings, in the tabernacle, and in the comparison of Moses as a type of Christ. This is all validated with scriptures and charts declaring Jesus as greater than Moses.

Children in the third grade and up will benefit from this valuable resource. The 60 charts and illustrations are clear and priceless tools for classroom or home-school use. This book will encourage each of us in our teaching to always relate the Old Testament to the redemption story of Jesus Christ. (Reviewed by Gospel Advocate V.P. of Sales Debbie Bumbalough)

**ORDER INFORMATION FOR
THE DRAMA OF REDEMPTION**

The book in its **second** printing, now through Hopkins Publishing. You can order it from **Gospel Advocate** or other **Christian book stores** and **on-line outlets** for **\$15**.

You can also order it from us at the same price.

—Sarah Fallis



Students singing in daily chapel

If you would like to help financially with Training Preachers In Their Native Land, please send your gift to:

Bridgewood Church of Christ, P.O. Box 8524, Fort Worth, Texas 76124

Please make a notation on the envelope or a note with the check "Gary Fallis Mission Fund." A gift of \$20.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 or more will help us in the training of gospel preachers.