



## **Global Missions of Open Bible Churches June 2013**

Presently Global Missions of Open Bible Churches is ministering in 44 countries. Through the outreaches of Open Bible churches overseas, over 92272,000 people received Christ last year; over 10,000 people were baptized in water; and over 12,000 people received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In the past 14 years, almost 924,000 people have received Christ as Savior; in that time 525 Open Bible churches were started.

Global Missions 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), School of Global Leadership, and a variety of humanitarian programs such as feeding kitchens for children and relief aid to the destitute.

There are 1,687 churches overseas among 44 countries, with a constituent membership of 2031,818 and 2,568 credentialed ministers. Open Bible has 2,568 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). Forty 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**

*The mission of Open Bible Churches is to globally  
make disciples, develop leaders, and plant 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. Hugo Castro was granted National Missionary Appointment in October 1993.

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 191 churches with 26,990 members, 399 credentialed ministers, 1,173 INSTE students, feeding kitchens to feed the poor, orphanages, and radio and TV broadcasts.

Hugo Castro completed his time in leadership of Open Bible churches in Argentina and South America in 2011. Luis Pardo was elected as the new president for Open Bible in Argentina in 2011.

## **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 325 members and 14 credentialed ministers. There are 35 INSTE students.

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

## **CAMBODIA**

One of Global Missions' newest partnerships is with the Lifesong Open Bible Church in Des Moines, Iowa, pastored by Revs. Mike and Dara Rasavahn. The church supports a school in the Tamada village in Cambodia, and members Ly and Sarin Mak are in

Cambodia to direct the ministry there. The outreach includes a Bible study that has grown into a church. As the school has grown, a property was purchased, a security fence built, and a well dug. Now a new school/church building has been constructed. The new school/church building is completed and fund-raising efforts are ongoing for the furnishings of the building. Bible studies for various ages are ongoing, including instructions on how to avoid being tricked by the human trafficking industry.

## **CANADA**

Former Eastern Region Superintendent C. Russell Archer was directly responsible for establishing relationship with churches in Canada that later became Open Bible Faith Fellowship 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 Global Missions.

Rick Ciaramitaro and Cathy, his wife, pastor Windsor Christian Fellowship in Windsor, Ontario. Rick pioneered the church 24 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 163 Open Bible churches in Canada with 64,714 members and 507 credentialed ministers. Open Bible is associated with 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 110 members and three credentialed ministers on the Grand Cayman Island. Evangelistic outreaches include a radio program and a prison ministry. The Cayman Islands church 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 25 churches with 890 members and 45 credentialed ministers. Seven of the churches are located in Santiago, the capital city. 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 the work was nationalized and 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 180 people. There are 35 INSTE students.

Because of the Mora's relationship with Drs. Nick and Leona Venditti, international directors of INSTE, they requested affiliation with Open Bible. In November 2003 after reviewing the bylaws and doctrinal statements, the Board of Global Missions accepted the church and Rev. Mora into fellowship. 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 86 churches with 14,528 members and 30 credentialed ministers. The INSTE program has 490 students. There are 600 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 Jr. is the field director.

### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Missionaries Bill and Wanda Jimenez were 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. The church in San Pedro de Macoris planted another church, and they have a total attendance of 152 people, and three credentialed ministers. 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 poor of the community. In 2009 Women's Ministries in the U.S. raised funds to build a feeding kitchen, which is now located next to the church. Food, clothing, and school supplies are provided for needy children.

Claudia Santana serves as the pastor and 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 once again opened for missionaries. Ralph and Ada Hernandez were appointed as missionaries to El Salvador in 1998. Their ministry centered at the Open Bible church in Santa Tecla, a suburb of San Salvador and in training pastors. The work was again turned over to the national leaders and in 2010 the Hernandezes returned to the States.

Open Bible has 13 churches with 641 members and 15 credentialed ministers. 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.

Angel Diaz was elected as president of Open Bible in 2010 and 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.

In March 2006 the Board of Global Missions 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 was granted National Missionary Appointment in June 1971. He returned to Ghana in 1971 to minister to his own people. Open Bible has 19 churches with 1,377 members and 13 credentialed ministers. INSTE was initiated in 2002 and there are currently 32 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 21 churches throughout Guatemala, with 1,149 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 300 students from several church denominations.

Rejinaldo Acual Choreque was elected as president of Open Bible Churches in Guatemala in 2011 and serves as 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.

Open Bible has 13 churches with 1,100 members and 13 credentialed ministers. Seeing the need for education and pastoral training, INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) began in 2010 and has 22 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 Muslims. 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 is one church with 81 members and three credentialed ministers.

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 5 churches with 500 members and 6 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 about 31 students studying in Hungarian. The first four books of INSTE Level Two have been completed and the translation is ongoing.

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 the Open Bible churches they had established 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 (Tamil Nadu) 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 other countries where Global Missions is presently working.

There are 534 Open Bible churches with 53,222 members, and 463 ministers. 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) Global 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 for both Levels 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 fifteen languages: Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Tagalog and Cebuano (both in the Philippines), Mandarin Chinese, Tamil and Hindi (both in India), an unnamed language to be used in a Central Asian country, and Arabic.

This ministry is greatly impacting churches and people worldwide. Under the direction of Drs. 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 53 churches on the island with 9,244 members and 83 credentialed ministers. Some of the churches have congregations of 500 or more. First Church of the Open Bible in Kingston ministers to 2,000 people during the Sunday morning services. The Bible institute has 109 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 18 churches with 662 members and 43 credentialed ministers. The Open Bible church in Kobe began an English Academy in 1980. This ministry teaches English as a second language as a ministry outreach, using the Bible as the text.

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

In August 2005 the Open Bible Churches of Japan celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> 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. The churches continue to reach out to those affected by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

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 98 churches with 10,829 members and 100 credentialed ministers. Many 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 that were 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, which included a medical clinic and school. The work grew to include churches 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 national 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 4,000 members and 56 credentialed ministers. 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 15 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 and served there until the end of 2011. In 2013 Dave and Toni Phillips were appointed to join the Puente staff. Other missionaries have also served at the Puente de Amistad base.

Bill and Fayth McConnell of Nogales, Arizona, were appointed as 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 26 churches with 3,651 members and 45 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 missionary 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 established the church in Ochomogo. They also hold regular services in two other locations. In addition they conduct evangelism and humanitarian outreaches. The INSTE program has been initiated to develop leaders and currently there are 19 INSTE students in Open Bible, plus additional students from other denominations now studying the program. There are now a total of four churches with total 350 members.

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. In 2012 the MOVE team built the church in Ochomogo.

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 27 churches with 1,791 members and 22 credentialed ministers. INSTE began in 1998 and currently there are 5 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 is almost completed. In addition, the station maintains several self-help projects, such as coffee, gardens, cattle, and a saw mill.

There are 27 Open Bible churches and 57 credentialed ministers ministering to 1,154 members. A Bible institute is on the Ivingoi Mission property. Numerous missionaries have served in Papua New Guinea.

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. After the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Open Bible Churches of Papua New Guinea was 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.

Alfred Aiko was elected as national president in 2012 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 7 churches with 300 members and 14 credentialed ministers. 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 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 nine churches with 326 members and nine credentialed ministers.

Maria Mestanza is the field director.

## **THE 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 2,783 members and 62 credentialed ministers. Four churches are established in Manila. INSTE was initiated in September 1994 and currently has 45 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 seven young people 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 4 credentialed ministers.

Samuel Morales currently serves as the acting 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 missionary 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. The Gherla Open Bible church has 100 members. The members of the Gherla church continue to reach out to nearby communities. INSTE Level One has been translated into Romanian and there are 7 students.

An interim director will soon be selected.

## **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 369 members and 4 credentialed ministers.

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 five churches in the Freetown area with a total of 880 members, and 8 credentialed ministers. In spite of unstable 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 in 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 2012 fall school enrollment is 720 students. The school is a great blessing and witness to the surrounding community. A second school was started last year at the Off Leicester church.

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 husband. Four churches with 75 members have affiliated with the new Korea Open Bible Churches. There are 9 credentialed ministers.

Dr. David Shim has served as the official liaison between the Korea Open Bible Churches and Global Missions.

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 a 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 two churches they started when they arrived were merged into one church, with about 90 people attending. A convention center that seats 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 pastored by Rev. Kenneth Donk and is under the supervision of the Trinidad missions department.

## **TAIWAN**

David and Christian Yua are both from Taiwan. The couple founded the Chinese Open Bible Church in Rosemead, California, and has long yearned to return to their native Taiwan, launch an Open Bible work, and extend it into Mainland China. They are an energetic couple with a dynamic ministry of evangelism and pastoral care. They were both raised in the Church in Taiwan and are deeply aware of how to minister effectively

in that cultural context. For this ministry to be successful and properly established, its leadership needs a couple who knows the language, culture, and ministry in Taiwan. The Yuas maintain a well-developed network of contacts and long-term relationships with independent ministries there.

The Yuas were appointed as national missionaries with Open Bible in October 2010 and are now laying the foundations for the work of Open Bible Churches Taiwan.

Asia is one of the hotspots for dynamic church growth and revival. Taiwan, strategically located in the heart of Asia, has easy access to both China and Southeast Asia. The church in Taiwan is growing and experiencing a powerful move of God. This burst of growth has made it necessary to find a good discipleship and leadership training program to train qualified church leaders. INSTE Level has been translated into Chinese and pilot groups are perfecting the first editions. We will soon be ready to launch INSTE Chinese on a much broader scale.

As the work in Taiwan is consolidated, it can also serve as a stepping stone for outreach into Mainland China as well as other countries in Asia and Southeast Asia. An exciting future opportunity will be launching INSTE in China.

### **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 90 churches in Trinidad with 16,327 members and 221 credentialed ministers. There are three Bible institutes with 125 students, a radio broadcast, and a Christian high school. The INSTE program, directed by Ann Marie Homer, has 234 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 of Trinidad, this location was chosen for the 2010 launching of the first School of Global Leadership, directed by missionaries Mike and Pam Lumbard. The students are able to take advantage of ministry to people from many cultures and religious backgrounds.

Dr. Benjamin Agard 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 Levels One and 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 has just been completed. There are a total of 248 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 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 16 churches with a total of 820 members and 119 credentialed ministers. A large headquarters church is being built in Lutsk.

The field director is Oleksandr Rudynets.

## **URUGUAY**

Open Bible has four churches with 250 members and 9 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.

Luis Marquez Máchado 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 17 churches with 4,134 members and there are 30 credentialed ministers. INSTE was started in 1996 and currently has 165 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 a 10/40 WINDOW COUNTRY**

One of our missionary families ministers 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 website.

The couple ministers in a variety of humanitarian outreaches for the purpose of establishing relationships for personal evangelism and church planting. They have also recognized the need for establishing Christians on a firm Biblical basis and the need to train leaders and pastors. For this reason, they have also begun INSTE classes.

Their ministries are being effective in meeting human needs, reaching those who have never heard the good news of the Gospel, and training future leaders for the Church in 10/40 Window countries.