

Walking in partnership, moving in missions

Latin America and Africa

The Southern Cone Region of COMIBAM International held their annual meeting in the City of Montevideo, Uruguay, from the 17 – 20 of March 2010. Over 20 mission leaders came from ministries and national missions networks that represent COMIBAM in Argentina, Paraguay, Chile and Uruguay.

Our special guest speaker was Dr. Steve Kabachia (with wife Jennifer) from Kenya. Dr. Kabachia is the Regional Director for MANI in East Africa (and interim representative for the Horne Region). Another special guest was Dr. Jonathan Lewis, Director of WEA's Leadership Institute.

The leadership of COMIBAM has held three meetings with MANI leadership in the past with the aim to establish fellowship and partnership in order to facilitate the Latin American mission involvement in Africa and vice versa. Since then the hearts of Latin and Africans have bonded in mission. During the past triennial Assembly of COMIBAM International – held last November in Bogota, Colombia –the Director of the Southern Cone Region and Vice-president of COMIBAM International, Daniel Bianchi, extended the invitation to Dr. Kabachia to come to South America.

During the regional meetings of COMIBAM held in Montevideo, Dr. Kabachia, had a special session every day with focus in Africa. Dr. Kabachia brought an overview of Africa and the church, its strength and challenges. Later participants interacted together talking about practical steps of partnership. Dr. Kabachia's ministry of the Word, and his passion and knowledge of current issues in Africa, greatly inspired and challenged our Latin mission leaders. Some of the national directors of COMIBAM reported that they had already taken practical steps that affirmed the timely visit of the Kabachias in our midst.

Walter Pelegrina, Director of COMIBAM Paraguay said with joy that the visit of the Kabachias made the meeting more special for their delegation and gave them much help for their plans, and current service of missionaries in Africa. Stanley Clark, President of COMIBAM Argentina (Red Misiones Mundiales) highlighted the importance of counting with MANI in Africa in order to know to whom to talk with and partner in Africa in future sending and training of missionaries for that Continent. Dr. Kabachia gave a great smile as he reflected over those days together and said: “All I saw and heard during these days here with COMIBAM are in the same spirit that we have in MANI. I look forward to advance in our partnership together”.

Daniel Bianchi, coordinator of the meetings, stated that: “This is a way to follow up of the meetings that the leadership of COMIBAM and MANI already had. Once a general agreement between the two organizations was established, we have the basis to work

in a Regional and National level to develop practical steps. Out of here we expect a greater movement and focus on the less reached part of Africa”.

The meetings ended with an intensive mission rally coordinated by COMIBAM Uruguay were representatives of every country reported on what God was doing in missions and Dr.Kabachia closed with an inspiring message from the Word. Then on Sunday a number of leaders stayed to preach in churches and to mobilize for missions.

Thanks were given to the local logistic team of Uruguay, headed by Pastor Sergio Maneiro, who prepared accommodation and food for the participants. Also to Myron Loss (SIM missionary) for the many practical ways he helped and the work it took to secure the visa for the Kabachias to come to Uruguay.

Special thanks to our brother Steve and sister Jenny Kabachia for coming and ministering with us. ¡Gracias Steve y Jenny!. "Asanta, sana"!

A special note of thanks to every one of the Latin leaders who took care of their expenses (travel expenses, accommodations, food, etc.) offering their time and personal finances to help out. Their contribution added up to nearly nine thousand US dollars. When the total was announced, participants clapped with joy, for even with very tight financial situations, both personally and nationally, they saw God moving. This was also a picture of missions from Latin America: sacrificial giving, deep commitment, fellowship with one another and trust in God.



Partial view of the Regional meeting. Representatives of (L to R) Paraguay, Uruguay, Africa (Kenya), Argentina, Chile



Delegation of COMIBAM Argentina with Dr. Kabachia and wife.



National Coordinators of COMIBAM in the Southern Cone Region.
(L to R) Sergio Maneiro (Uruguay), Walter Pelegrina (Paraguay) Daniel Bianchi (Regional Director), Stanley Clark (Argentina), Sergio Galaz (Chile).



Kabachia preaches at rally, Bianchi interprets.



Listening, reflecting, participating.



COMIBAM and MANI, partnership with a mission