



The Latest News from MINTS

From the Central Administrative Office of Miami International Seminary in Miami
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Welcome to the fourth issue of the Latest News. This newsletter is brought to you by the Administrative Team to give you the latest and greatest news and information from MINTS around the world.

AROUND THE WORLD (TURKEY)

Somi Aghazadeh, Director of the Turkish & Persian Departments, files this report from Istanbul:

Turkish MINTS has produced 21 graduates and has 153 students enrolled in their programs.

Rev. Dr.Ucal is very busy producing materials and TV programs connected with our Turkish Mints. We have currently produced 13 TV programs on Ethics, 13 programs on the Seven Churches in Paul's letters, 13 on Acts, and 26 on Practical Theology (Living with Christ in contemporary society). This is the reason I am involved with MINTS courses, programs, students and their ministries. I also have a small academic team that checks on the students, communicates with them, gives exams, and evaluates the students through the Internet or face to face.

This is all for now. But praise the Lord we have plenty of things to do because we strongly believe MINTS is a blessing from LORD to us, and it is a great work for His Kingdom. We have a desire to create a wonderful Web University, Lord willing, first for Turkish speakers, then for Persian speakers.

www.turk7.com (TV channel) Web page <http://www.mintstr.net>

(The pictures below show Dr. Turgay Ucal; Dr. Larry Ruddell teaching a MINTS Business Ethics course in Turkey; Somi Aghazadeh and Jaklin Tezcan)



CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Dr. Neal Hegeman's report on a trip to Trinidad, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Colombia (October, 2009):

TRINIDAD The first stop of the 17 days teaching trip was in Port of Spain, Trinidad. It was a delight to meet and stay with missionaries Chuck and Dawn Newell, who have taken over from Steve and Adanna McGee. I also renewed my friendship with Pastor Ricky Gosyne. Chuck and Ricky are trying to figure out accreditation standards and procedures in Trinidad. I met with six of the seven students on Tuesday evening and gave the introduction to “Evangelical Identity; a Case for Evangelical Reformed Pietism.”

ST. VINCENT The short puddle hop to St. Vincent went well. St. Vincent is in their second generation of students. They have graduated over 100 during the past seven years. Paul Duncan has taken over from John Lewis, who moved to Grenada over a year ago. I gave a course on Evangelical Identity to over 25 of the 50 students currently in the program. Paul is looking to offer a Youth Ministry major, so MINTS will be helping out by translating some of our youth ministry courses from Spanish into English. We will also need someone to oversee the development of youth training. I had supper with retired Ministries in Action (MIA) President Walford Thompson, who now resides in St. Vincent with his wife, Jennifer.

GRENADA Two days later, another short flight to the picturesque Grenada island. John Lewis has had an excellent year with the new MINTS program. There were 29 graduates for the certificate level (10 courses) as well as three Bachelor degrees and one Masters degree in the degree completion program. The graduation was attended by both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs of the Grenadian government. MINTS has already cooperated with the government by teaching courses on Values in the government schools. Steve McGee gave the orientation to a course on Prayer and I spent 6 hours with the students giving the orientation to the Evangelical Identity course.

BARRANQUILLA (Colombia) The last stop was in the coastal city of Barranquilla. This is my seventh visit to the coast and it was good to see how well the brothers are using MINTS. Some of the former students who had tried to develop their own teaching ministries have returned to the STR (Seminario Teologico Reformado). There was quite a group of Messianic Jews at the conference. After arguing persistently that Peter’s letter was written to the Jews, I reminded them that the original readers also included the Gentiles who “once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” They silently listened to my exposition on I Peter 2, where Peter declares that all Christians are prophets, priests and kings through faith in Jesus.

Pictures: Ad for the Conference about I Peter. Dr. Hegeman teaching in Barranquilla



Report from Rev. Eric Pennings (MINTS Central America Regional coordinator)

It is with much excitement and enthusiasm that I am able to announce a very exciting development in the ministry that God has called me to as a missionary professor. Miami International Seminary (MINTS) follows a model of “mission seminary” in which study centers multiply as they mature and grow. The “mission seminary” model of leadership training also encourages graduates of our programs to write courses for MINTS and to become our new wave of professors for the courses we offer. In my ministry in Central America, God has been blessing the efforts wonderfully, for which I am thankful. In each of the

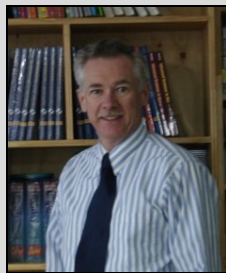
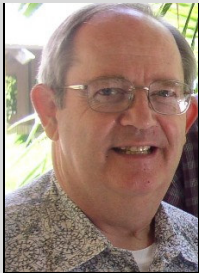
Central American countries, there has been growth, some experiencing more of this than others.

In El Salvador there have been a number of Centers that have been started and we are receiving requests to start more Centers. It has been difficult for me to keep up with the growth of MINTS. Much of this growth is due to the volunteer efforts of one of my former students who has now graduated with his Masters in Theology with MINTS. He lives in Toronto but he and his family are originally from El Salvador. During this past year he has made several trips to El Salvador on my behalf to do some teaching and to start new Study Centers. He has been very encouraged by how well things have gone and has committed himself to coming on board with MINTS full time to serve as the MINTS-El Salvador Country Coordinator. This is exciting because my goal is eventually to have such a position in each of the seven Central American countries that I am working in.

José Jesús Ramírez and his family are making plans to move to El Salvador. As with all MINTS personnel, in order to do this he needs to raise funds for his own support. He has begun to make some contacts, but is looking for more churches and individuals to support his ministry in El Salvador.

THANKSGIVING

This is the perfect time of the year to thank God for some people that have invested a lot of time volunteering their services to Miami International Seminary for many years. The group is large; we will focus in the ones with the largest amount of time devoted to MINTS. (We will concentrate on the Miami Central headquarters that benefit the whole MINTS operation around the world)



(From left to right: Dr. Kent Hinkson; Dr. Larry Ruddell; Rev. Don Ritsman; Dr. Richard Ramsay; Mrs. Mary Sweeney)

Dr. Kent Hinkson has invested many hours teaching classes for MINTS in different locations such as Miami and Istanbul. He has won the heart of the students for his kindness and concern for each one of them. We greatly miss having him around in Miami. He lives now in North Carolina. (M.Div., WTS; D.Min., RTS)

Dr. Larry Ruddell has devoted a lot of time to develop our data base system and in teaching. We thank God for his professionalism, great disposition, kindness and encouragement. (M.Div., WTS; Ed. D., University of Houston)

Rev. Don Ritsman has been designing online Bible courses in English for MINTS. He has prepared programmed courses, with study guides and quizzes, on many books of the Bible. (M.Div., WTS; Th.M., WTS) (See the MINTS online courses at: <http://miamiinternationalseminary.com/>)

Dr. Richard Ramsay has taught classes in Miami and overseas, created the web page miamiinternationalseminary.com, designed courses on line in English and Spanish, and raised funds for special projects that have benefited students mainly in Cuba. Thank you for your quiet and gentle disposition for doing so much without making any noise about it. (M.Div., WTS; Th.M., Covenant Seminary; D.Min., WTS)

Mrs. Mary Sweeney has been volunteering her time for many years as our CPA. We greatly appreciate the time and expertise she has given to MINTS. Thank you for your cheering and servant spirit, always willing to help! (University of Florida)

Special thanks to Old Cutler Presbyterian Church for supporting this ministry since the beginning in year 2000. Thank to its staff members that help us in many ways in our daily tasks. Thank you for letting us use the office space and some equipment that we don't have. Being such a support for MINTS has allowed the church to be part of probably the biggest mission ministry that this church ever had, with more than 4000 students around the world, in different countries and languages.



A note from Angelica Ramsay. As many of you already know, I will be leaving MINTS at the end of this year. I would like to express my thanksgiving to the Board of Directors, Dr. Greg Hauenstein and Dr. Neal Hegeman for the opportunity given to me to work for MINTS for almost nine and a half years. Thanks to so many brothers and sisters in Christ around the world to whom I have not met in person, but we have been working together for all these years. With some of you I have had weekly communication. Keep going, trust the Lord; everything you are doing for the Kingdom of God is the best investment of your time, efforts and resources!

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Give thanks to the Lord for the tremendous work and encouragement from teachers, pastors, and leaders who devote their time and sometimes limited resources to extend the Kingdom of God worldwide.
2. MINTS is in great need of financial support. Please pray that the Lord provide the resources needed so that this ministry can keep growing around the world for HIS glory.
3. For the administrative team in Miami, to find committed volunteers to help with administrative tasks.
4. For guidance for the Board of Directors. Thanks for the time they give to help MINTS. Special thanks to Dr. William Richards who has been part of the Board since the beginning of MINTS.
5. Thanks to the Lord for Gospel through Colombia and its constant financial support for the ministry in Colombia, and from Colombia to other countries.
6. Pray for Rev. Allen Vander Pol. Allen is seeking to work fulltime with MINTS. He is planning to visit MINTS groups in India and the Far East.
7. Give thanks and ask for guidance for Rev. Jared Reed as he teaches in MINTS-Miami and tries to develop the Miami-English speaking center. Thanks for Ms. Patricia Winters for helping in this effort.
8. Always remember this verse in your prayers for our students: *"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Th. 1.2-3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please send an email to mints@ocpc.org (attention Angelica Ramsay.) This newsletter is only for news updates and prayer requests. It does not represent an official report of MINTS for other purposes.