

Down the street and...

The TELOS Report

... around the World!

The official TELOS International information source for our partners:
Helping make the world whole... one person and one relationship at a time!

Tel•os (tél-os, Gk
τελος) – “to achieve
one’s ultimate aim,
purpose or goal in life...
to be complete, mature
and whole.”

In this issue:

A miracle story	1
TELOS and maturing: An adventure / A journey	2
Thank you! Supporters meeting needs and approaching the goal!	3
Bringing hope and healing: Training the care-givers to reach the many who are hurting	3

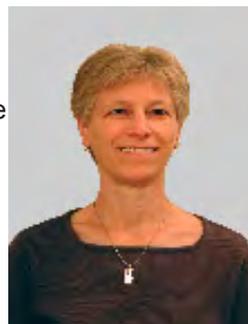
A miracle story, by Janet Taylor

Want to hear a miracle story?

When I was growing up, I assumed all women missionaries were old, dressed in frumpy clothes, wore their hair in buns, and were “old maids”. And as I pictured them sitting outside their huts in the jungles of “deepest darkest Africa,” sharing the Gospel with the natives, I definitely knew I did *not* want to be a missionary!

Now I know better. God has a great sense of humor; he gives us a passion to say “yes” to his calling even though we may not see all of the details with complete accuracy. God’s desire is for us to be involved in his Kingdom work, using the abilities he put in us.

In the last three years, I have had the delight of being a “butterfly” who flies all over the place being a counselor to missionaries and nationals in SE Asia, and Eastern Europe.



TELOS International associate **Janet Taylor** travels to numerous world areas throughout the year providing counseling and consultation to people with little or no access to such services.

On my first trip to Mongolia last year, I was invited to spend an evening with a young Mongolian woman named **Natasha**, who like some of her friends,

had come to Christ, but was now struggling with family life that often includes alcoholic, unemployed and non-believing husbands. Many of these men are also abusive to their wives.

Natasha wanted to start a support group for her friends and through my translator-friend, asked me lots of questions on how to set up a group like this.

Although it was freezing outside, we sat around her warm pot-belly stove eating a simple one-dish meal in her small round yurt decorated with lovely wall-hangings.

After supper, I asked her if she had any Bible story books for her 5 year old daughter. She showed me a dog-eared copy of *My First Bible* by **Ken Taylor** written in Mongolian.

What a surprise! This is one of the many Bible story books that my father has written and I was getting to see it being used way out here in “Outer Mongolia”! Her little daughter promptly sat down and “read” to us some of the stories and I took a picture to show my father.

Later, my friends told me they love that book because it is such an easy way to introduce God’s story to families. But

*(continued on p. 2, see **A Miracle...**)*

*“Natasha, ...
like some of
her friends,
had come to
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life...”*

(continued from p. 1)

A miracle...

they were hoarding their last copies because the supply was gone and apparently it was now out of print. I told them I'd let my father know and see if he could get the publishing wheels moving again. At age 86, my father is still Chairman of the Board at Tyndale House Publishers and actively involved in publishing projects all over the world.

Now several months later, my father has informed me that a new run of 5,000 copies in Mongolian is being printed and hopefully will be brought in

soon. Just think how many more families like Natasha's will get to read and hear the Good News!

Six months later, I was back in that same little yurt again. Only this time I was coming to Natasha's bi-weekly support group. I arrived to find 15 women squished together in a circle eager to hear words of encouragement and truth from God about how to treat their husbands with love and respect and yet not accept abuse.

"I arrived to find 15 women squished together in a circle eager to hear words of encouragement and truth from God..."

After sharing my thoughts using *1 Peter 3:1-6*, and discussing their questions that often had no easy answers, our session ended with healing prayer for many of them as they shared more personally their needs.

As we said goodbye, I thought to myself, "What a privilege to have been here! This is holy ground." Miracles are taking place for each one of these women as they apply God's truth to their lives, plus... *I'm getting to be a missionary and I don't even have a bun on my head!*"

TELOS and maturing: An adventure / A journey

By Rand Michael, D.Min., Co-Founder and President, *TELOS International, Inc.*

We live by words... and the use of words, in the form we call "language". Regardless of culture, education, sex, socio-economic status, religion, or any other factor, we understand, express, and live life through communication.

It is a joy to watch children develop their language skills. It is a miracle unfolding right before us. Until Sunday, August 31, 2003, 9:44 pm, Cambridge, England time, we had three grandchildren (all in the Kansas City area of the USA): **Riley**, 9; **Katie**, 6; and **Michaela**, 3. Why reference the time to the UK? Because at 9:45 pm, **William Paul Pecknold** arrived in Cambridge, making us grandparents for the *fourth* time. A short time later we became grandparents for the *fifth* time—when **Christian Michael Harding** was born in the Kansas City area.

We marvel at the language development of each. Riley, being 9 years old, is ahead of Katie at age 6, and both Riley and Katie are ahead of Michaela at age 3. William and Christian are making noises and they mean something but neither they nor their parents, nor we, are always sure what it is.

Ah! Language, words, communication, development, and *maturing*.

"Telos is a word we at TELOS international, inc. live by... I am pondering and being challenged by its use as mature."

Telos is a word we at TELOS international, inc. live by. It is a Greek word which can mean a variety of things, depending on the context in which it is used, e.g., goal, mature, complete, purpose. Currently, I am pondering and being challenged by its use as *mature*.

I need to ask myself how mature I am—in actuality, not just in my own self-perception? I find that in some ways, I am quite self-aware but that in other ways, I am not. I find that in some ways, my perception of myself is accurate but at times, to my surprise... and sometimes disappointment, I find that my perception of myself is not as accurate as I fantasized (and did not even realize I was fantasizing!).

Ah! It is wonderful when that surprise is a positive one—one in which I receive feedback that someone has experienced me in a positive way or in a useful, service-oriented way... one of which I was not even aware. How affirming.

But then... ah! Then there are those times I receive feedback that I may not be as mature, as caring, as positive as I like to think myself to be. It is not easy to receive that feedback... but I need it, and I need to ponder it, to evaluate it, to prayerfully consider it because it may be exactly what I need in order to continue my journey of maturing... never mature in the fullest sense of the word, but always in the process, always about the adventure of maturing. And in this process, if I am indeed committed to it, I need both affirmation and "correction"—the latter of which is much easier to receive and from which to benefit if it is given caringly, lovingly, patiently.

(continued on p. 4, see **Maturing... an adventure and journey**)



Rand Michael, along with his wife Phyllis (not pictured), are co-founders of TELOS International.

Thank you! Supporters meeting needs and approaching the goal!

In our previous newsletter we presented readers with two opportunities to impact people for Christ. First, to help us establish our Kansas City area office; Second, to help support our international students.

You have come through with support on both counts... *and together we are impacting people for Christ!*

Because of your support, our Kansas City office continues to move forward. This has been quite a faith venture and it is exciting to see how God is opening doors. Our Kansas City office is crucial to the future development of the TELOS ministry, enabling us to have a strong organizational foundation for both our international and domestic ministries.

Because of some unforeseen blessings pertaining to office space and bi-vocational opportunities for our executive director, **Michael Ward**, we have been able to *significantly reduce our projected operating expenses* for the remainder of this year and next year. Our current operating budget is only approximately \$1,458 per month! And because we maximize every dollar donated, TELOS is now moving forward like never before in its history!

You will want to read the article below about the preparations that are being made to significantly impact a "creative

access" country for Christ. Literally, we have doors opening for ministry all around us.

Already our executive director is providing counseling on a sliding fee scale in the Kansas City area, making counseling available to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it.

Another very exciting part of our ministry includes our international students. Currently we have **Ardiana Halili** and **Alma Gugushi**, both from Albania, studying at George Fox University and Warner Pacific College, respectively, both located in Portland, Oregon. This is a great example of how TELOS International encourages, empowers and equips individuals for worldwide ministry.

One of our supporters has had the opportunity to know both Ardiana and Alma personally... *we wish each of you could!* This TELOS partner has been so impressed by their sincerity, dedication and desire to serve others. He

wanted to help them in a practical way, so he bought each of them an *annual bus pass*, now they can go anywhere at anytime in the Portland area as much as needed for *one year!* It is enthusiastic generosity from partners like this that enables TELOS to be a part of changing the world... one person and one relationship at a time.



A TELOS International supporter has provided students **Ardiana Halili** and **Alma Gugushi**, both from Albania, *annual bus passes* (valued at over \$600 each) enabling them to get around the Portland metropolitan area easily.

Help us continue impacting people for Christ! We still need your help! Of our \$1,458 monthly

budget, we are currently raising \$1,000 in regular monthly giving, that means **we still need to raise only \$458 per month.** **By partnering together we CAN do this! We would raise our total need if:**

5 people give \$91.60 per month, or, 10 people give \$45.80 per month, or, 20 people give \$22.90 per month, or, 30 people give \$15.27 per month

Please pray about what you might be able to give as a tax-deductible one-time or monthly gift. Any amount will help us reach people for Christ at this strategic time. **THANK YOU!!!!**

Bringing hope and healing: Training the care-givers to reach the many who hurt

By Rand Michael, D.Min.

How do you bring hope and healing to populations that number millions and more? It seems so overwhelming that a natural response is a feeling of paralysis.

A popular question is: "What would Jesus do?" It is valid to ask that question in response to the needs of the masses. It is also valid to

ask it, changing only one word: using "did" instead of "would," so it is asked: "What did Jesus do?" The answer is quite telling: He had only about three and a half years of ministry, what did He do?

Some may answer, "He preached to the masses so He could reach as many as possible in as short a time as possible."

A close examination of Jesus' strategy

yields this insight: although He ministered to the masses, He concentrated His effort on *only 12 persons!* He poured His life into these 12.

He continued throughout the brief years of His ministry to minister to gatherings of people, whether in private homes where a handful—perhaps two to three dozen—might crowd into a structure and spill over into the court yard; or in the country side, in natural amphitheatres, where a few thousand gathered to hear His teaching. But throughout, He poured His life into 12. These He trained to train others. Today (cont'd on p. 4, see **Hope and healing...**)

"Numerically, it starts small but with the power and magic of multiplying, great numbers are reached and they are reached in more depth."



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Volume 1, Issue 2
October-December 2003

(continued from page 2)

**Maturity...
An adventure and a journey**

Another thing about maturing: it is possible—in fact it is quite common—for us to be more advanced, further along in the maturing journey in some areas of our lives than in others. Recently, in an alumni section of a newsletter from a college, I noticed a “blurb” submitted by an “alum” who had also briefly served as a faculty member at his alma mater. He had earned a doctorate at one of the most prestigious universities in the world yet had not been effective interpersonally and was dismissed from his teaching post. The blurb, though only two sentences, seemed to exude longing for affirmation. It told of his degree from the prestigious university, that he had earned a second doctorate and was now appointed full, tenured professor at another fairly well-know university.

(continued from p. 3)

Hope and healing...

in corporate circles we call this strategy “training the trainers.” This strategy allows for the intense and effective training of a few who in turn each effectively train a few. Numerically, it starts small but with the power and magic of multiplying, great numbers are reached and they are reached in more depth.

For the past few months, I have been meeting with a person who has given his life to ministering to others. His calling is to bring hope and healing to the hurting masses, the hurting masses of what is called “a creative access country.” We have been planning how to “train the trainers” in care giving so those trained render direct care to the hurting and hopeless and also to train others to do the same. Among the challenges with which we have wrestled:

- What resources are in the language of the people? And how do you find these?
- What is the level of education of those we will train?
- What are the gifts and abilities of those who are interested in being trained?
- How do we tactfully and respectfully screen so those who are called and gifted are trained and those who have a concern but do not have the gifting are guided appropriately to other ministries for which they are better suited?
- How do we tactfully and respectfully screen for maturity and readiness?
- Of the resources available in their native tongue, what is the best reading sequence?
- How do we monitor actual skill development and insure actual effectiveness rather than just exposure to information? (because care giving is rendered through persons and the person needs to embody maturity as well as effective skills).
- How do we cooperate with the training that is available in country but in reality is minimal and quite biased?
- Who else is providing what training already or planning to do so?
- With whom might we partner in this process so as many resources as possible can be marshaled as effectively as possible toward the objective?

Our commitment is to train the trainers so hope and healing are brought to the masses. One would not suspect that the groundwork for this is, in part, being laid in a quiet 10 by 12 foot counseling office in a quiet neighborhood thousands of miles from “the creative access country.”

Although academically brilliant—mature academically, as a scholar—his maturity as a person lags behind. My heart ached for him. I prayed for his becoming self-aware and that he would “work on his stuff” so he could wholistically move forward in the maturing journey in *all* facets of his life.

The ministry of TELOS international, inc., which is committed to fostering maturing in others, first calls those of us who minister to a commitment to the maturing journey ourselves. I laid down the college newsletter and began wondering, “*In what areas of my life am I not as far along as I need to be in the maturing journey?*” Those of you who know me personally probably have some information you can share with me... if you do so, will you do it gently and lovingly? That will help me receive it and more readily do something useful with it.

Ah! This maturing journey—it takes a village!