

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:

The healing power of listening in West Bank	1
TELOS and purpose	2
Butterfly God-stories from Janet Taylor: My sheep hear my voice	3
Tim Dixon: Why I serve on the TELOS board of directors... because....	3
International is here as well as there!	4
Update from the Kansas office!	4

The healing power of listening in West Bank

By Sharon Casurella, TELOS associate

What brought me to Israel in July of 2002 is a story of God’s guiding. My husband had died the year before and I was praying for some way to use healing energy that God was giving to me. An e-mail communication from Dr. Rand Michael in May brought an invitation to



Sharon Casurella is an associate for TELOS International, living in the Portland, Oregon area

go with him and Glenn Koppang to Israel to conduct training in *The Healing Power of Listening: Care-giving in Stress, Crisis, Loss and Trauma*. As a high school counselor I have the summers off so gratefully accepted this opportunity.

Use your imagination for a minute! First, make a list of all you did this past Christmas season (i.e. I traveled to Mexico, Illinois, went to my job each work day, had family visit from Alaska, Kansas, & Washington, “shopped until I dropped,” enjoyed many worship experiences with my church family, etc.) Now imagine a

curfew imposed on you by the government. You can’t leave your home, night

or day, except for 8 to 10 hours per week when curfew is lifted. That is what it is like for the Palestinians in West Bank. The real lifting of the curfew, as well as the shopping hours, are usually announced on TV at only the last moment and then again it may be reversed just as suddenly. Psychological warfare!

“Now imagine a curfew imposed on you... You can’t leave your home, night or day, except 8 to 10 hours per week...”

One day our team set out for Bethlehem to do the second day of training because curfew had been lifted according to the TV news. By the time we got to the checkpoint, there was a curfew. Nevertheless, we drove to an area where we were able to get around the checkpoint and walked over the border into Beit Jala, west of Bethlehem. There we trained and had fellowship with several ministers and their wives.

(cont’d. on p. 2,
see **Power of listening...**)

(continued from p. 1)

Power of listening...

Selwa, one minister's wife, told me what the curfew was like for her.

Going out for groceries is her main concern when the curfew is lifted, and what she finds is not fresh. She tries to be creative with home activities when her three children get bored.

Their home is in the crossfire of Israeli soldiers and Arab extremists. Five-year-old Tarneem will not let her mother out of sight nor will she go out to play following the day the bullets were

shot near her while she was playing in her backyard. There are bullet marks

all over their home.

Selwa's husband Nihad pastors a church. He cannot visit his people in their homes or hospital, so his phone ministry is vital. However, many

of his people cannot afford to keep phone service.

Our team trained about 30 people in Jerusalem and Bethlehem areas, at times using a translator. Those being trained were students from Bethlehem Bible College, social workers, a lawyer, a pharmacist, pastors and their wives,

Campus Crusade workers, several

Nazarene and Alliance missionaries, and other church leaders.

The history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been recorded in thousands of books and I have read

only a few. It seems impossible to make sense out of it all. ***What does make sense is the courage, strength and amazing faith being lived out by God's people on both sides.*** I am grateful for the opportunity I had to minister even in a small way. I continue to pray for my new friends in Jerusalem and West Bank knowing that "God is [their] refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble." Ps. 46:1

"Their home is in the crossfire of Israeli soldiers and Arab extremists... There are bullet marks all over their home"



Sharon (l) listening to Selwa (r), a Palestinian minister's wife, as she tells of her family's daily struggle living in the West Bank.

TELOS and purpose

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

Telos—a Greek word rich in meaning, used in the writings of the early Christians. Among the nuances: goal; mature; purpose; the end and culmination of something. In the last issue of the *TELOS Report*, we considered the "mature" facet of *telos*. In this *Report*, I want to ponder with you regarding *purpose*.

By creation, we are meaning makers. We need meaning; we give ourselves to that which we consider meaningful—remembering that "meaningful" is a contraction of "meaning" and "full"—full of meaning. Purpose gives our lives meaning, which allows us to feel useful and valuable, that our brief time on planet earth has significance.

There is a tendency for us to be anxiety-driven. We might or might not be aware of this.

However, one of the most vivid and consistent illustrations of this in modern, market-driven culture is given daily: the stock exchange reports. Listen closely and you here worry, fear, anxiety as the driving force behind market maneuverings and fluctuations.

Although we need to be good stewards financially, the elusive vapor called financial security is not a sufficient purpose. An adequate purpose, one that does indeed give our lives meaning and yield a sense of significance, is to be found in service to others, service which is motivated and empowered from Beyond...Beyond this ephemeral existence, Beyond our limited capacities for understanding and for loving. For me, The Beyond is a Personal Beyond, One Whom we can know, with Whom we can have Relationship, a personal relationship. Ultimately, all purpose is personal—having to do with persons and relationships. No matter what our means of earning income, ultimately the arenas in which we live and work provide a context for us to express Purpose—serving others through our gifts and how we relate.



Rand Michael, President of TELOS International.

Butterfly God-stories from Janet Taylor: My sheep hear my voice

Editor's note: Periodically TELOS associate Janet Taylor writes "God-stories" about her travels. She says, "These are moments when I come closer to the Holy." She sees herself as "fluttering" about the world like a butterfly, and in her ministry travels she hears God's word in wonderful and unexpected ways. This is an excerpt from her latest God-stories, with more to come in future editions.

My Sheep Hear My Voice. You may think I never have time to do anything "fun" while I'm on these trips. Not true! While in Mongolia this time, we went out into the hills outside the capital city of Ulan Baator to visit some shepherds who care for their combined flock of 300 goats and 400 sheep.

It was so peaceful to walk out among the sheep and goats on the hillside watching them dig for roots in the frozen ground. A shepherd circled

And then thinking about how this huge flock belonged to three families with three shepherds, I asked, How do you know which ones are yours?

around the flock on his horse watching for wolves lurking about in the hills close by. At dusk, we watched as the lead shepherd began whistling as he herded them all into the sheepfold and another shepherd closed the gate. Later, as we sat inside their cozy

yurt, sipping steaming bowls of hot milk-chai made on the pot-belly stove, I began asking a few questions through my interpreter-friend.

Have you always wanted to be a shepherd? Yes. What's your favorite part? The birthing. And then thinking about how this huge flock belonged to three families with three shepherds, I asked, How do you know which ones are yours? The young shepherd seemed surprised by my question. "Of course we know

each one of our own! And they each know us. Even at night when they

cry, we know by their voice which one it is. We call out to them to lie down, and they do."

Suddenly the words of John 10 went straight to my heart. "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me." To

know and be known. A relationship of intimacy. Now I am rereading *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by Phillip Keller. Apparently we really are like sheep!



TELOS associate Janet Taylor visiting in the yurt of a local shepherd outside of Ulan Baator in Mongolia.

Tim Dixon: Why I serve on the TELOS board of directors... because...

First, TELOS is wholistic in philosophy and in ministry, addressing not only the spiritual but the psychological needs of persons...with an awareness of the need to attend to the physical as well.

Second, because TELOS team members and associates are willing to go on site to be a minister to nationals and to those who serve them. TELOS teams and associates are willing to serve in difficult situations where there is need for attending to the psychological and relational needs of persons.

I have seen many people burn out over the years because either there were no services available to them for processing their needs or the service had a narrow understanding of persons and how God made us. The psychological as well as spiritual needs of persons require attention, in a wholistic understanding.

Third, because I do not really know of another organization doing quite what TELOS does: TELOS not only provides direct clinical and caring services but teaches and equips nationals and international workers how to take care of themselves and to teach others to do the same so they do

not or are less likely to burn out.

Fourth, TELOS and its associates understand how to listen, to listen to the whole story, the good, the bad; the exciting, the discouraging; the thrilling and the traumatic...knowing that in being heard, there is healing.

Fifth, because when my own situation allows, my wife Mary Jo and I plan on ministering through the avenue of TELOS.



Tim Dixon, TELOS International board member, with his wife Mary Jo and their four children. Tim is president of Dixon Construction in Salem, Oregon



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Editor:

Michael D. Ward, M.Div., M.A.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / BOARD MEMBER
Marriage & Family Therapist

Office Locations:

Kansas, USA
PO Box 4545
Olathe, Kansas 66063-4545 USA

Phone: (913) 940-2051
Fax: (913) 782-2265

E-mail: telosinternational@sbcglobal.net

Oregon, USA
PO Box 23292
Portland, Oregon 97281-3292 USA

Phone: (503) 620-2137

E-mail: telosintl@yahoo.com

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International is here as well as there!

by Rand Michael

Typically we think of international as "over there," and with it "foreign," "strange," and for a lot of us, "interesting" and "exciting" as well.

In recent months, a health situation has prevented me from international travel—from my going "over there." However, "over there" has come "here"—here where I live, in Portland, Oregon.

I have had the privilege of serving as the mental health professional to "screen" a couple for prospective missionary service "over there" (in their case, the South Pacific). What a privilege to be here and to not just "screen" the couple, assessing their suitability for international/cross-cultural service but to hear of their call, their journey, their burdens and hopes and to provide guidance and encouragement in the process.

Phyllis and I met twice with a young couple wrestling with the question of their call to missionary service and whether their "there" would be in France or in French speaking Quebec, Canada.

Janet Taylor, one of TELOS' associates who often serves in Asia as well as other world locations, and I met with a career missionary to discuss and problem-solve regarding dealing effectively with the multiple roles in clinical mission work...here, there, and everywhere!

I met with Pastor John from "there," in this case, there being Ghana. He is "here" periodically working on his D.Min. degree. We discussed at length about equipping care givers in the network of churches of which he is part in Ghana.

I met "here" with Dr. Steve Spinella, the Director of the *Center for Counseling and*

Growth which is located "over there"... and this over there is Taichung (Central) Taiwan. I have had the privilege of supervising and consulting with Steve as he has journeyed to become an Approved Supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He counsels international workers from all over "there"—Southeast Asia. Recently, he served as a consultant to a mission group in Japan.

Last but not least, on a recent late afternoon, we were having guests over for dinner: two were from Albania and one from Mexico City. While we were visiting with one another, various persons

who were working on some remodeling we are having done came by: one was from Peru, one from El Salvador, and another, from Mexico. We did not plan this international gathering...it just happened.

There is here...and touching lives here touches lives there. I need to be willing to go there to serve; I need to be willing to stay here...and remembering all the time that my here is a there for others. Whether here or there, it is always a matter of being of service, helping the world be more whole, one person and relationship at a time...encouraging, empowering, equipping.

"Whether here or there, it is always a matter of being of service, helping the world be more whole, one person and relationship at a time...encouraging, empowering, equipping."

Update from the Kansas office!

I trust that over our last few editions of *The TELOS Report* you are beginning to get a glimpse of all that TELOS—with **your help**—is doing!

Our sliding fee counseling ministry in the Kansas City area continues to grow... currently we are *already at about half of full-time capacity!*

Your prayers and gifts have been crucial... thank you for your partnership!

We still need one-time gifts and monthly supporters... \$10, \$20, \$50 or more. Help us reach our goal of raising just \$458 more in monthly support!



Michael Ward,
Executive Director of
TELOS International.

Your gifts are tax-deductible... and they **change lives!**