



# 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!*

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October-December 2005

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

## In this issue:

|                                                       |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Stability-and-Change:<br><i>Dangerous Opportunity</i> | 1 |
| Comments from the<br>President...                     | 2 |
| REPORT: <i>teamNicaragua</i>                          | 3 |
| REPORT: <i>teamVenezuela</i>                          | 4 |

## Stability-and-Change: *Dangerous Opportunity*

By Rand Michael

People, churches, organizations...life itself...in order to be healthy and growing, must find the right mixture of stability-and-change. Too much stability results in life, vigor, creativity being choked out. Too much change and chaos scatters the vitality of the organism and again, death results.

TELOS is in the midst of some significant changes: two key team members are called to focus their time, gifts, expertise, and energies in other arenas. **Mike Ward** and **Sherry Brinkley** have provided such needed service at a formative time in the life of TELOS. We do not want the change that is being necessitated by their new callings but understand those callings and prayerfully support Mike and Sherry in these new endeavors. All of us say a hearty and heartfelt “THANK YOU, MIKE AND SHERRY! And our prayers are with you!”

Although it is bordering on cliché, the truth is still so valid: that the Chinese characters for crisis—*dangerous*

*opportunity*—fit the transition prompted by Mike and Sherry’s responding to their new calls.

The danger is that we would become slack in our stewardship regarding

TELOS and its essential ministry of *encouraging, empowering, and equipping* others both in the USA and internationally.

The opportunity is that we can review and renew—review our investments and involvements in this

important ministry and renew our prayer and financial support.

The project in East Asia of equipping marriage and family therapists to serve the underserved masses of the Far East continues. That project needs your prayers and financial support.

The other periodic and short term work in various world locations continues with teams needing to return to follow-up on prior involvements, e.g. Burundi,



(continued from p. 1)

## Dangerous Opportunity...

Nicaragua, Venezuela, Israel.

Also, an invitation to help train Christian counselors in Bulgaria has been received and plans are being laid.

TELOS is indeed in transition; there is indeed change; but there is stability of purpose and you can help foster the needed balance between stability-and-change via your prayers, your speaking to others about TELOS, and your sharing in supporting the financial needs of the organization itself.

In this time of actual and pending crises in various parts of the world, we here at TELOS and the Christian counselor-trainers who serve via TELOS are still committed to seizing the opportunities that come our way to help *encourage, empower, and equip* people around the world. Thank you for sharing in this "dangerous opportunity" too.

Also, please know that you are in our prayers. We pray that as you experience crises of whatever form you will be able to seize the opportunity in them for learning and growing so that all of us together, in a tapestry of grace

and love, may be able to make the world just a little bit better...down the street...around the world!

*"TELOS is indeed in transition... but there is stability of purpose and you can help..."*

Until the end of 2005, all contributions will still be processed at our office in Olathe, Kansas. But please note that **beginning January 1, 2006 all contributions should be sent to the following address:**

TELOS international, inc.  
P.O. Box 23292  
Portland, OR 97281-3292

Thank you so much for your partnership and support!

## Comments from the President...

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

During this time of transition and opportunity I am excited to announce for TELOS the Lord's provision of a NEW TREASURER AND NEW BOARD MEMBER!

Welcome, Jeralynne and Peter!



**Jeralynne Hawthorne** new TELOS Treasurer and board member.

Our new Treasurer (and new board member) is **Jeralynne Hawthorne** who teaches mathematics at Warner Pacific College (WPC).

She and her husband, John (who is also a professor at WPC), have been faithful supporters of TELOS and its ministries.

Jeralynne has extensive experience in treasury work in churches and related organizations.

It is with joy, delight, and relief that we welcome you, Jeralynne, to this important assignment.

Our new board member is **Peter Nordbye**, an educator and former public school principal with extensive experience in leadership and training. He and his wife, **Blythe**, a trained and experienced mental health professional, served via TELOS in Nicaragua, Summer 2005. They provided workshops and training for pastors and spouses. The focus of the Nordbyes' work was marriage, equipping the clergy and spouses for their own marital growth and enhancement and equipping these same clergy couples to minister more effectively to the marital pairs in their congregations.



**Peter Nordbye** new TELOS board member.

# Summer Team Reports:

TELOS International had its most active summer ever... *the summer of 2005!* Because of generous, visionary supporters and dedicated clinical associates, TELOS sent clinical teams this summer to Albania, East Asia, Nicaragua and Venezuela. You will be blessed to hear of the work—and *the lives touched*—that your support made possible. In the last edition of the *TELOS Report* we brought you the stories of *teamAlbania* and *teamEastAsia*... in this edition we bring you two more!

## REPORT: *teamNicaragua*

OBTW: More, Less, and Different

International clinical ministry always (yes, it is always!) involves many OBTWs (“Oh, by the way...”). This tends to be quite an adjustment for most Euro/Anglo-Americans who are used to the dominant cultural norms and patterns of 21st Century America.

However, TELOS orients its associates to think in terms of “OBTW: what is the opportunity in this OBTW?” This was the case as *teamNordbye* (**Peter and Blythe**) became *teamNicaragua*, preparing for and engaging in ministry in Nicaragua, July 2005.

While all efforts were made to have all things arranged ahead of time, not all things were in place, but *teamNordbye/Nicaragua* proceeded, cheerfully and in faith.

What unfolded, as is typical, was more, less, and different from what was anticipated... and in the OBTWs the inevitable OBTW of good, fruitful things as made possible by faithful clinical servants empowered and directed by God’s Spirit in the process of going and serving.

Who would meet the Nordbys at the airport? Assurances had been given but no specific names proffered. But OBTW: they were warmly greeted at the airport by **Pastor Mario**, President of the Nicaraguan Pastoral Association. Mario, no English; Nordbys, no Spanish; but connecting taking place. Transportation to the Mennonite House. God’s provision: **Robbie and Maggie** who are fluent in English and Spanish and who oriented the Nordbys to Nicaraguan cultural nuances.



Already a great team, **Peter and Blythe Nordbye** became TELOS International’s *teamNicaragua* this summer.

A drive from Managua to Juigalpa, mostly in silence due to language barriers; then, who would interpret? OBTW: 21-year old **Arlen** emerged; Arlen, who had taught himself English from an English program. Arlen served effectively as the Nordbys spoke in church on Sunday and then during the week equipped pastoral couples to have healthier marriages and to minister more fruitfully to their congregations through more effective listening and communicating as they render pastoral care and provide pastoral leadership.

As the week progressed, and as is typical, the number of participants increased. The final day was given to training the participants in what is known as “solution-focused pastoral counseling,” an approach which readily lends itself to cultural adaptation.

A particularly poignant moment emerged when a pastor’s wife, with tears rolling down her cheeks, stated she had never been listened to before.

The participants were eager, desirous of more training, and were planning to return to their pastoral assignments and immediately use the training—in pastoral care and in teaching the listening and communicating skills to their congregants.

While poverty is pervasive and debilitating, eagerness to learn, to grow, to be effective saturates the pastors and their spouses. They want

TELOS to return and to train them further in all facets of understanding persons and ministering effectively.

Peter and Blythe report they went to give but have to admit “*we felt tremendously blessed to be part of the Nicaraguan ministry!*”

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*“They want  
TELOS to return  
and to train  
them further...”*

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encouraging · empowering · equipping

TELOS INTERNATIONAL, INC

"Helping make the world whole... one person and one relationship at a time"

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# REPORT: teamVenezuela

What an exciting and challenging time *teamVenezuela* had as they traveled through 13 towns, villages, and cities from Barcelona through the Andes Mountains, looping south around Lake Maracaibo and eventually back to Caracas. Team members **Judy Zollner, Sharon Casurella, and Luis Carriere** were busy all day every day for three weeks traveling, presenting workshops, and counseling.



Helping make the world more whole... one relationship at a time... (l to r) Luis Carriere seated next to a ministry participant, and Judy Zollner and Sharon Casurella.

The word flexibility took on new meaning as they were sometimes asked during a service to change topics. One minister came to them in the midst of the singing and asked that they change from the subject of "Basic Counseling Skills" to "Myths of Relationships." The team did their best to fulfill all requests for workshops that met the needs of the audiences.

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*"...and they sometimes had to wait up to six hours for a session. But all were grateful for help..."*

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There are very few mental health service providers in Venezuela so none of the people who came for help had been for counseling before. The situations were far removed from office sessions in the U.S. Some of the conditions included soldiers with guns walking by the open, glass-less windows, children playing outside, loud trucks driving by, torrential rain on the tin roofs above, 100+ degree temperatures with 90% humidity, mosquitoes, electricity unpredictable, and hostesses interrupting with cups of strong, sweet coffee. Some of the folk had traveled for hours to come to counseling and they sometimes had to wait up to six hours for a session. But all were grateful for help with a variety of issues including domestic violence, sexual abuse, marital issues, depression, grief, pornography addictions, to name a few. The team was

challenged to be sensitive to cultural differences as two of them worked through translators.

Team Leader Judy Zollner's words capture some of the energy of the mission, "*The team members have really bonded and grown close . . . We all learned and grew from each other. We have had many serious discussions and many moments of uproarious laughter... "*

In the words of Sharon Casurella, "*Only God knows the impact that a short three-week mission trip such as this has on all involved. However, I do know that it had a great impact on me, and the team witnessed a conversion, a baptism, and couples beginning to heal in their marriages..."*

After all, this fulfills the mission of TELOS "*Helping make the world more whole... one relationship at a time."*