



GO World

Tentmaking Mini-Journal from Global Opportunities

Volume 15, No. 1 - 2006

New Tentmaking Course in Fort Myers, Florida

We are launching a new tentmaking course in Fort Myers, Florida February 21-25, 2007. Christ Community Church has agreed to host the course. We are working to arrange homes to house those who attend to reduce costs for the course. This will make it easier for people to attend. Also, southwest Florida, "Almost Paradise," is a great place to take a break during the winter months!

But the real power of GO's Light to the Nations course is how it helps you catch fire and equips you for true tentmaking. Designed for working people, the course packs 30 hours into four days of highly focused, practical training in the Biblical model and core ministry skills to make you effective overseas. Learn how to

- Do Biblical tentmaking today
- Deal with culture shock
- Bond with the people
- Find an international job
- Do effective, workplace evangelism
- Lead Bible studies for seekers
- Maintain spiritual vitality
- Plant simple churches

Continued on p. 8 - "New Course"

Ruth Siemens Home with the Lord December 20, 2005

The world has lost one of its great tentmakers and missionaries. Ruth joined her Lord just six weeks after a special 80th birthday tribute to which people came or sent letters from across the U.S., Canada, Latin America and Europe.

At 17, Ruth went to Biola to study Bible and missions. She felt God was leading her to Bible translation with Wycliffe. But suddenly she contracted tuberculosis, almost died and lost a lung. She felt deeply let down because no mission agency would risk sending her. So Ruth went to

Continued on p. 4 - "Ruth Siemens"

Remembering Ruth Siemens




Ruth Siemens - 1925-2005

Those who heard Ruth speak, seldom forgot her. One responded, "Ruth was effervescent!" Many still remember her message. Ruth was "effervescent" because she enjoyed God and constantly saw him working in her life. She expected him to work, asked him to work, and saw him work over and over, often in unusual ways. She kept a prayer journal recording her requests and noting God's answer. This gave her constant fuel for conversation. After she lost a lung to TB, she saw that God used this to send her as a tentmaker to teach in international schools reaching students and teachers, and to start university Christian student movements.

Ruth's enjoyment of God enabled her to enjoy people. Her enjoyment of God and people was magnetic and drew many to Christ. It also drew many further in following Christ and in fulfilling his global mission.

Ruth was possibly the most effective personal evangelist I have ever met. She always tried to make nonbelievers comfortable and looked for the positive motives in their actions. When people asked at parties if she would like to have a drink, she responded, "Oh, I'd love to! Do they have any Coke or Ginger Ale?" She never made an issue of alcohol. She realized that they wanted to get to know her and affirmed that motive. I was amazed at her insights into evangelism which grew out of this orientation.

Over and over, Ruth's love, quality work and constant comments out of her joyful walk with Christ drew people to ask questions. This led to many seeker Bible studies. Seekers got so excited about investigating Jesus in Ruth's studies that they invited friends and family to come too. And many came to Christ, grew as disciples, and reached others. This produced a steady stream of leaders and five university Christian student movements in Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Spain and Portugal.

When Ruth returned to the U.S., her teaching and stories about tentmaking, evangelism, Bible study, and developing leaders impacted Christians on campuses, in churches, and in conferences around the nation. In this GO World you will hear some of the stories and the impact Ruth made in people's lives. You will also hear some of Ruth's legacy in the ongoing work of Global Opportunities. May it inspire, enrich, and impassion. A brief story of her life starts on the lower left. - DE 

Inside

Doorways - Hot Job Opportunities	2
Worldwide GO Courses	2
GO Tentmakers Go!	2
Glimpses of Ruth Siemens' Impact	2
Problems Turn into Miracles	3
Tentmaker Training to Unreached Peoples	7
JET: Great ESL Opp	7
Tentmaker Mailbag	8
Join the Action!	8

Worldwide GO Courses

In just three years, GO's tentmaking courses have seen tremendous development. GO's model for empowering tentmakers is now being used on three continents.

Until 2003 GO's "Light to the Nations" course could only be taken in the U.S. Now Light to the Nations is being used as model for annual training courses in Canada, Norway and Mali. And even more courses may be added soon. Each course outside the US has its own local flavor, but the basis of the training is the same everywhere, including teaching on the biblical basis of tentmaking, cross-cultural communication, church-planting and much more.

"It has been amazing to see how this course has been received in Europe," says Steinar Opheim, managing director of Tent, a Norwegian resource center for tentmaking. Since its start in November 2000, Tent (which means "on fire" in Norwegian) has collaborated closely with GO.



Many participants said that their lives have been greatly impacted by
Continued on page 7 - "Worldwide..."

Glimpses of Ruth Siemen's Impact

Drawn from tributes presented at Ruth's 80th birthday, six weeks before she passed into her Lord's presence, these not only tell us about a remarkable servant of God, but also about living a life of joyful surrender, rich depth, and great effectiveness.

From Gary Ginter:

The worldwide tentmaking movement owes an enormous debt to Ruth Siemen. From 1970 to today, no one has thought more clearly, written more competently, nor mobilized as effectively as Ruth. She is still the leading thinker of the 20th century about the missiological aspects of the tentmaking. There may have been more famous men who have written more widely read books on tentmaking, or

Continued on page 5 - "Glimpses..."



Doorways!

Sample Job Opportunities

Radar Shop Tech, Saudi Arabia

Test, troubleshoot, install, remove, inspect, maintain & repair system components in accordance with current RSAF/Boeing technical pubs. Coordinate with engineers/clients. Req: Knowledge of calibration maintenance processes & corrosion prevention. Prefer 7 years AWACS exper. A&P license a plus.

Planning Budget Analyst, Saudi Arabia

Work closely with senior mgt. within the Mgt. Dev. Dept. Provide staff assistance in planning & coordinating operational & business plans, accountability reports, invoice verification, & development of program contracts. Req: Bachelor's in engineering, bus. admin., accounting, or financial mgt.; 8 years in cost control, budgets, etc.; SAP exper. preferred;

Applications Engineer, Malaysia

Impact sales by delivering technical expertise, solutions, & product integration for customers. Determine, develop approaches to system/application engineering assignments, lead projects in conjunction with other functions/customers & deliver ICT solutions. Req: Bachelor's in engineering; min. 3 yrs exper. in pre-sales; project mgt. exper.

Marketing Business Analyst, Malaysia

Business trend analysis & demand forecast plans for designated product lines to bridge the supply chain between sales & order fulfillment. Pre-sales: provide pricing, schedule change & product enhancement info to distributors, OEMs & resellers. Post-sales: research customer order status, resolve shipping/scheduling issues.

Req: Bachelors or Masters in EE;

Finance Prog. Specialist, New Delhi, India

Team lead. First contact for Finance Assistants & Coordinators. Under minimal supervision, perform complex finance or accounting assignments, including monitoring processes to ensure adequate business controls, & coordinate month-end/year-end activities. Assists in customer support. Implements new accounting systems and tools.

Req: Higher education or specialized training/certification; 3-4 years direct experience;

GO World is published by Global Opportunities (G.O.), 1600 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, CA 91104. 626/376-4086. Editor: Dave English. G.O. exists to motivate, prepare, deploy and nurture tentmakers—self-supporting, cross-cultural workers who communicate Christ in word and deed. **GO World** is free to all who show interest in GO. Content is sensitive and confidential and for Christians only. Please do not post or mislay it. Please request permission to reprint any of this copyrighted material.

GO Tentmakers Go!

Middle East

"Jane" just started a job this fall with a large firm in a Middle Eastern country. After attending GO's tentmaking course five years ago, she has steadily pursued preparing to go. She got a job in her profession to build job skills and credentials, and also studied to pass her state's credential exam. Because God had laid Arabs on her heart, she joined an Arab church to learn the language and culture and to build friendships. She also took Arabic courses. After she gained her credential and several years experience, she arranged to telecommute to her firm from a Middle Eastern country so she could study Arabic there in a university. This also gave her the chance to investigate job openings in her profession. By the time she left, she had offers from two Arab firms, but with some risk as to whether they could obtain a work permit for her.

After a few months back home to finish with her firm and to make arrangements, she returned to take a project manager job with the largest firm in her profession in this country. During a recent phone call, she told me, "One of the women here asked me, 'Why don't you come by to visit?'" In this culture, this is huge, because real friends just drop by to visit. So this woman was telling her that she saw her as a real friend and wanted her to just drop by! Jane is also inviting her female colleagues to experience some American Christmas traditions like cookie-making.

Afghanistan

About a week after the tentmaking course in Dallas, one couple headed to Afghanistan for the second time to help a Christian development agency and to investigate engineering openings for "Dean" and English teaching for "Melissa." Dean plans to retire early and work in Afghanistan as an engineer while Melissa teaches in order to reach Afghans whom they have come to love. They are still looking for God's long-term openings for them to work there. Pray for God to lead.

India

"Jeff" runs an IT business in Texas, and after our tentmaking course in Dallas, he expected to wait several years before going. Then, God opened a door to India! His biggest client was very open to outsourcing. So Jeff presented a proposal to

start an IT outsourcing business in India.

The initial meeting went very well. God has really prepared them for this as they have been reading The World is Flat and have opened up to globalization. They are in the budget process for next fiscal year and looking for creative ways to lower costs. The director loved my proposal.

Then, after the second meeting: Just had the second meeting with my customer, one level below the president. They are very excited. God has really gone before me. I expected this meeting to be the hardest by far, but there was not one negative thing brought up.

God has shown us incredible grace in this whole process. Everything so far has been coming together smoothly. We just sold our house, after less than two weeks... [He lists more "coincidences."] As far as the missions part goes, we hope to meet some like-minded people in our city and partner with them in what they are already doing. In the meantime, I decided to start developing my tentmaker skills like opening up our home more.

I connected Jeff with business tentmakers in India to help him learn about India and launch his business. Jeff and his family moved to Chandigarh, India in August. He chose Chandigarh because it has good infrastructure (dependable electricity, etc.), an educated, English-speaking workforce, and lower wage costs. Jeff has already found a great home, started his business, and begun developing relationships with the people. He is excited and wants to show other Kingdom business people the opportunity and need there.

Equatorial Guinea, Africa

Mendall Rogers, who also attended GO's tentmaking course, had been teaching ESL for a major oil company in Equatorial Guinea. That company liked Mendall and helped her rent a building and start an ESL school for the local people during her off time. So besides witnessing to her coworkers, she is also reaching out to the people through this school which is much appreciated by local pastors. Sadly, a new supervisor came along and began to maneuver Mendall out of her job. But God worked this out for good and gave Mendall an even better job with a better-run company and helped her to grow further in integrating work and faith and discipling local believers. Her

Problems Turn into Miracles

Do you often see God's intervention in the events in your life? One Christian leader wrote that most of these are probably just coincidences. So when this question came up in my California living room, I said, "Well, let me tell you what happened when I moved to Rio de Janeiro."

When you move to a foreign city, you have to make major decisions before you have enough information. I had come to Rio to begin a university student fellowship. The city is structured like a long S-curve, with most of its (then three million) people crowded into a narrow swath between its famous beaches and the boulders and mountains just behind them. The colleges were scattered throughout the city, so I needed a central location with trams and



Rio de Janeiro

buses to everywhere. I also needed a place big enough for student meetings, a place I could afford, and most worrisome, I needed a property owner to cosign the contract.

I complained to God. Why did I have to spend days, on public transportation, hunting for an apartment, when I could be spending that time with students? I kept remembering a little park in a good location, with a new condominium-type apartment building on one side. But there was nothing for rent. I had already asked the *porteira* twice. So she was not happy to see me a third time. I said, "This time I just want to know if there is an apartment empty." She said, "There is one, but the owner does not want to rent it. He's upstairs now, painting."

I took the elevator up. He told me his family was eager to move in. I stayed to chat while he worked. At one point, he said, "Of course, if I rented it out for a couple of

years, I could pay for it sooner." Without looking up he asked, "If I rented it to you, who would be your cosigner?" When I said I didn't have one, he said renting was out of the question. Then I asked if he would consider a property owner in the city of Petropolis, about 20 miles up the mountains from Rio. He said, "No." I said, more to myself than to him, "I'm sure my friend Dirk Van Eyken owns his house." The man put down his tools, stood up, and asked, "Did you say Dirk Van Eyken?" I said, "Yes." He said, "Anyone who is a friend of Dirk's doesn't need a cosigner!"

It turned out that Dirk worked in the office next to his at the Canadian Light Company! This owner then offered his lovely apartment for a lower rent than I expected. Dirk was a Danish-Brazilian tentmaker-engineer who found the Lord through the IVCF group at McGill University in Canada. His personal integrity, quality work, and caring relationships won his colleagues' respect and opened the way to win some to Christ. In a city of 3,000,000, God had led me to the only person with an empty apartment who also knew my friend Dirk! Think of the odds. What a miracle! The students and I had enormous confidence that God had provided that apartment because he cared about our activities and would use us. And he did.

When I finished this story, a skeptical listener said, "It could have been a coincidence." So I said, "Well, you'll never guess what happened when I moved to Curitiba to start a student group there." When I arrived in this smaller, very European southern Brazilian city, I was impressed with the central square. On one side of the little park was a beautiful municipal auditorium, with the Catholic Medical School and a couple of other colleges behind it. Across the square was the Federal University medical school. Oddly, between the two was a six story apartment building. I said, "Lord I want an apartment in that building. Please let it be on the first floor (one above ground floor), so no one will have to wait for the elevator. The *Porteiro* said there was no apartment for rent, but I had learned in Rio that a closed door is not necessarily locked. So I asked, "Is there an apartment empty?" He said "Yes, but it's hopeless. The owner's wife died six years ago and

Continued next page - "Miracles..."

Miracles... *from previous page,*

he wants it kept as she left it." So I went to the office of this businessman and asked if I could rent that apartment for student meetings. Immediately, he said, "Out of the question. I want it kept how my wife left it." But almost in the same breath he said, "Foolish, isn't it? He paused for a bit, and then offered it to me for less than I would have offered! A few days later, I had moved into a beautiful apartment—on the first floor of that building!

What was the Lord telling me through this miracle? "I have kept this apartment for you for six years to have it available for your students!" What confidence that gave me! I was in the right place, and God was going to use me and Maria Celia, the second year medical student I invited to live with me. We often had 30 or more medical student-seekers for our Saturday Bible study. And when we tried to divide into three groups for better discussion, almost everyone came three times a week! They dropped in at all hours to chat. At exam



University of Barcelona - courtyard

time, they brought human hearts and lungs (in formaldehyde) and studied all night, with forays into the kitchen for maté tea and cookies. Many found God! But that's another story.

Then, for good measure, I said, "And let me tell you what happened when I moved to Spain." I knew no one in *Barcelona*. The map showed a huge new university campus on one edge of the city. But there was no housing nearby. So I needed a place in the city center with transportation lines to everywhere. Then the *pen-sion* where I roomed closed, and in a hurry, I rented a place I didn't consider ideal.

But then I learned that under Franco's

oppressive fascist regime, evangelicals could not get decent jobs and could not pursue higher education. However, after a new law in 1967 lifted some restrictions, evangelicals were allowed to enter the universities. I also learned that the construction of the new campus had not yet begun, that almost all the evangelical students were first year medical and nursing students, and the biggest surprise—that all were doing their training in the big hospital just one block from my apartment! I *knew* God had brought me there. Students came for chats and Bible studies between classes. Seekers found God,

You can count on God for yourself and for your children. He loves them even more than you do and always takes them into account. *- Ruth Siemens*

as did my landlord and landlady.

I don't have space to tell about all the other cities, except Lima, Perú. There I also ended up in a centrally located building. On the roof, visible from anywhere in the city, an international conglomerate had installed a huge neon sign which read "SIEMENS." Everyone could find "Ruth Siemens" place!

The days spent house-hunting were not wasted. Seeing unsuitable places helped me refine my idea of what I needed, and appreciate the right place when God led me.

Of course, we must pray in order to receive answers. Mt. 7:7 says, "Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you." The asking does not make apartment hunting unnecessary, but it assures us of God's help. I seem to have spent my life gently pushing through closed doors that proved not to be locked. Sometimes we pray, and then lightly say we're glad everything worked out. But I wonder if God does as much for us if we don't notice, and rarely say "Thank you." Try keeping a prayer and experience notebook. All God's actions on our behalf are also messages. Ask, "What is God saying to me through this?"

Let this reassure anyone going to a sensitive country. You can count on God for yourself and for your children. He loves them even more than you do and always takes them into account. You will have problems, whether you go to a tough country as a witness, or stay home. Remember: No problems, no miracles!

— *Ruth Siemens*

Ruth Siemens *from page 1,*

Chico State near home to get a marketable degree in English and education.

With others she started the first InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) group at Chico State. Because staff help was limited, students were forced to take responsibility to reach the campus. Ruth grew greatly and God kept using her in evangelism. On one visit, her InterVarsity staff showed her how to study the Bible inductively. Ruth stayed up all night studying passage after passage. Over time, she became an incredible student of Scripture and Bible study leader.

After graduating, Ruth taught elementary school in the Bay area. With two other IVCF grads, she started a teachers' Christian fellowship which quickly spread. Ruth also

assisted with IVCF in the Bay area. One weekend she helped with the fall conference. The missionary speaker had heard of her effectiveness and asked Ruth to come teach at a secular bi-national school in Lima. In a few months, Ruth was teaching in Peru, the country God had originally put on her heart.

Within hours of arriving, Ruth met Marta, a Peruvian colleague, at the school reception. After brief small-talk, Marta asked, "You probably know what is in the Bible—would you teach me?" Marta was seeking because her pilot husband had recently died in a plane crash. After a few studies, she welcomed Christ into her life. Her three teenage sons soon followed. Similarly, Ruth led other teachers and staff to Christ. Almost all her sixth graders came to a Sunday School class she taught and trusted Christ.

Ruth initially thought ministry was spare time activity, but God was using her at work. Non-believers were constantly watching her and interacting with her. She realized that work was her primary network for witness and that by *integrating* work and witness she could do "full-time" ministry in the context of full-time secular work. She gave excellent service because she knew this was crucial to bearing witness to Christ.

Ruth audited classes at San Marcos University to improve her Spanish. There she met Maria who began tutoring her three times a week. Spanish lessons turned into Bible studies, Maria came to Jesus, and her friends joined the study. The study

grew into a campus fellowship and then



San Marcos University in Lima

into a national movement affiliated with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES).

God raised up strong leaders and Ruth felt she should move on to another Spanish-speaking country. But no offers came. Just as she was running out of time and money, a Brazilian school asked her to come. With only one open door, God's leading was clear. In Sao Paulo, Ruth headed a large bi-national elementary school with a good salary. Morale was dismal. So Ruth led the teachers to set new, high standards which led to the children performing well above grade level and gave the teachers immense pride.

Ruth repeated what she had done in Peru, reaching students, teachers and staff. She continued to develop her "fishing" evangelism, arousing spiritual interest through her life and words, but

never imposing unwanted religious conversation. She waited and answered those who asked. In this way she fished out seekers into Bible studies where they could investigate Jesus for themselves in the original records. Many came to Christ and Christians copied her example.

The very night Ruth arrived, God introduced her to the student who became president of the first campus group in Brazil. Soon the Brazilian student movement was launched and Ruth was traveling all over Brazil training students.

Ruth worked together with the students from the start. Because she received no donor support, students didn't feel they could leave the ministry to her as a person who had the time or pay to do it. They knew she had a demanding job and kept taking responsibility—a major advantage of tentmaking. Not only did the students lead on their own campus, they traveled repeatedly to other campuses

when Ruth did not have time. Ruth said, "You know how to evangelize and lead Bible studies. You can train these students." When they returned, they were elated and totally committed to the group they had visited. Ownership produced rapid growth.


When her three year contract ended, Ruth switched to donor support at the urging of IFES since the work was exploding. She continued the same student-led pattern. When she left Brazil, 30 campuses had fellowships. Next, IFES asked her to develop student movements in Spain and Portugal. Once they were established, Ruth returned to the US. She criss-crossed the U.S. giving evangelistic dorm discussions and training students in Bible study, evangelism, and missions as an IVCF missions staff worker.

Ruth found students turned off to traditional missions, but excited about tentmaking. Ruth and volunteers helped many find positions. Dr. Brooks, head of IVCF Missions, said, "You have a new ministry going—give it a name and do a brochure!" So Overseas Counseling Service (OCS) was born. She kept an incredible pace, traveling, speaking, mentoring, training, etc. With a tiny budget and volunteer help, OCS helped hundreds to go overseas as tentmakers.

The greatest thinker about tentmaking in our time is finally home. We must now, albeit inadequately, continue her legacy of tentmaking..." - Ari Rocklin

When OCS died because of a poor board decision, Ruth re-launched the work as Global Opportunities (GO) which began to grow again. Ruth's pace finally caught up with her health as she grew older and she had to let others lead. But she continued writing, speaking and serving on the board.

Ruth wrote numerous tentmaking articles. Her careful Bible study produced probably the best material anywhere on the New Testament understanding of tentmaking. Not only was she one of the most effective tentmakers, missionaries, personal evangelists, or Bible study leaders, she was one of the clearest thinkers about Biblical tentmaking. Ari Rocklin wrote, "The greatest thinker about tentmaking in our time is finally home. We all must now, albeit ever so inadequately, continue her legacy of tentmaking praxis, promotion and prayer."

-DE 

Glimpses... *from page 2,*

ministry in the marketplace, or Kingdom Businesses, or..., but none of them "get it" like she did. In fact, today the worldwide Business As Mission movement stands foursquare on the [Biblical] perspectives popularized by Ruth. Yet, few credit her as the source of these fundamental insights. She was too much of a practitioner—too involved in mobilizing students and professionals to worry about writing it all down, let alone finishing a book. And, yes, she is too much of a perfectionist to ever be satisfied with the current state of her own thinking. Her experienced mind and creative instinct knew there was so much more to be said if one were to do the topic justice—how could you publish before you had finished your thinking? And Ruth was always thinking.

Under her skillful stewardship, Global Opportunities (GO) quickly grew to become the single most important tentmaking mobilization ministry in the USA. Always on a shoestring, Ruth knew how to get more bang out of a buck than any missionary I ever knew!

She modeled a quiet, faith-filled fierceness. Demons didn't like it when she showed up because they knew that Jesus worked mightily through this woman. They knew that she was God's feret-fierce, unrelentingly persistent one that never, ever gives up. You don't mess with God's feret if you can avoid it! You may knock her down, but you can't knock her out. She just doesn't quit—at least not until her Lord tells her to. Then she obeys, even when it hurts.

Gary Ginter

Chairman of the Board, DevCorps Int'l
Former Chairman of the Board, Intent
Former Vice-Chair of the Board, IVCF

From Becky Manley Pippert

My Beloved Ruth,

There are missionaries and there are missionaries. The missionary world of fifty years ago, while rich in faith and faithfulness, was too often stuffy, dusty, and boring—not intellectually curious or culturally interested. But you, Ruth, were different. You never have been, nor could you ever be, boring.

When you came bursting into my life while I was a student studying at the Uni-

Continued next page - "Glimpses..."

Glimpses... *from previous page*

iversity of Madrid, you were a whirlwind of zest, enthusiasm, and immense kindness. I was captivated first by your stories of the God's work in times past and excitement for what God could do in Spain. Your passion was contagious. I saw that it wasn't just spiritual things that aroused your curiosity: God's entire world was of interest to you. I was amazed by your breadth of reading and penetrating comments whether on the latest science article in Time Magazine, archeological discoveries, current theologians, or politics. No one in my experience has ever lived more fully or delightfully the Lordship of Christ over all of life as you.

But it was sharing your apartment in Barcelona in 1969-70, that in retrospect, was a key factor in my spiritual development. You taught me how to really study the Bible. You roped me into leading my first Seeker Bible study in which we saw five people give their lives to Christ! You detected that I'd never led a person to Christ and told me how. But it was far more than skills that I gained. I saw what a walk of faith looked like up-close. Everything you thought, felt, delighted in, or regretted was viewed in relationship to the Living God. You showed me there was no tension between deep faith and deep critical thinking. I can remember as if it were yesterday, you coming out of your room for dinner, with hand-written pages taped together that you unfolded at the dinner table to show Kathy and me. You had charted the entire book of Revelation as a systemic whole. "Only then can we really understand its meaning," you said, with your face positively beaming!

And now we come to the end of this scrapbook, [Becky put together a scrapbook of friends' memories and photos from Ruth's life.] and have made only a tiny dent into the extraordinary life you have lived! My journey in putting this together has been a profound experience for me. I was often in tears reading the letters that came from all parts of the world. I found myself reflecting on the verse "Teach us, O Lord, to number our days," because I want to finish the course well as you have. But most of all, this experience has led me to moments of unexpected, pure worship of God. Why? Because your relationship to God is one of such delight and awe that it is impossible to understand you unless a person knows

the God you worship. And that, I believe, is your ultimate epitaph. Your life calls everyone you encounter to consider Christ—to "taste and see that the Lord is good!" After being in ministry for 30 years, I know one of the greatest gifts God ever gave me was knowing you. To you I owe a key part in my faith development, and a huge part of my passion for evangelism and for speaking God's truth to the world.

With profound love & affection,

Becky Manley

Author, *Out of the Saltshaker* and others
International speaker
Founder, SaltShaker Ministries



Ruth teaching at GO's tentmaking course

From Kathy Lang Morris

You encouraged me to do outrageous things like lead a Bible Study in Spanish when I could hardly speak the language. My Spanish was so poor I could not understand it well enough to know if the students had given me a right answer. It amazes me to this day that medical students were so hungry for God's word that they would put up with the language barrier we had. You gave me the courage to step out for the Lord. You were the model of a Christian woman that I had never seen, and have continued to be a model for me in the last 34 years. You fed my desire to follow and serve the Lord.

Thank you for showing me the intimacy and faithfulness of God's love. You are truly a wonderful woman who has been faithful to the Lord, bringing many others to Him, and deepening the commitment of those who already know Him.

Much love,

Kathy Lang Morris

From David English

Ruth is constantly aware of God's presence, looking for where he is working. So she constantly finds natural ways to point to him in everyday life. This can be as simple as saying, "Lord, thank you for this good food. I'm really hungry." or, "I help committed Christians work in other countries in order to care for hurting people with the love of Christ." or "I prayed like crazy and God helped me find it (100s of dollars)." Ruth connects people to God naturally and personally. But she never pushes, never imposes unwanted spiritual conversation. She changes the subject leaving people free to respond. Then when they are ready to ask, she answers their real questions.

Over and over, Ruth has found people opening up to her about spiritual things whom others thought were apathetic or resistant—Austrians in a local shop asking her to tea to discuss more, atheists on campus, businessmen on planes, and on and on. Ruth integrates work and witness. She displays a model which makes tentmaking possible because it empowers Christians to witness appropriately to their natural contacts at work—the people with whom they spend the most time.

Ruth's stories and insights have given me some of my greatest help in evangelism. I have devoured her stories every time I've heard them and been amazed to hear more! Ruth has discipled hundreds directly and thousands indirectly. From my experience, Ruth is probably the most effective personal evangelist I have ever met and one of the most effective tentmakers or missionaries I have ever met.

Ruth's influence has rippled through the missions community. I keep coming across articles in which I hear clear echoes of Ruth's teaching and writing—sometimes attributed, sometimes not. Some have absorbed Ruth's thinking without remembering where they learned it. This only attests further to Ruth's considerable impact. It is impossible to assess Ruth's full impact on the Church, individuals, and missions. I only know that it is major and that her impact on me has been enormous. I know very few who compare with this remarkable woman.

Ruth, thank you more than I can ever express.

With profound gratitude,

Dave English,

Executive Director, Global Opportunities

Worldwide... *from p. 2*

this training. "At the closing session of last years course one man told us that the course really had been an eye-opener for him. He said that in his Christian walk, this course was like a watershed. From now on he would start to talk about life 'before and after' the course," says Steinar Opheim. In addition to his role as head of Tent, Opheim is also acting as the European director of Global Opportunities.



Tentmaking Course in Bergen in 2005

"Without GO, we would not have been able to reach as far as we have within the five years Tent has existed," says Opheim. Since 2000 Tent has had about 500 people at the organization's courses and gatherings. 60 people have taken the full five-day tentmaking training.

"These figures may not seem very impressive. But we need to keep in mind that Norway only has 4 million inhabitants and that the churches all over Europe are struggling. Many mission agencies are facing difficulties in recruiting new personnel. In this situation it is amazing to see so many missions minded people taking the tentmaking course," says Opheim.

Due to the demand for training, Tent set up an additional annual tentmaking course in Oslo. Together with GO, Tent is also investigating the possibilities of starting an annual course in Southern Europe.

"The need is great, but if we are going to add more courses, we need to find more teachers," says Opheim. He wants to encourage former tentmakers to join the team of teachers who are contributing at the tentmaking courses.

Those who could be interested in joining this ministry should contact either Global Opportunities at www.globalopps.org or Tent at www.tent.no (in Norwegian only)

— Steinar Opheim 🌐

Tentmaker Training to Unreached Peoples

Representatives from several unreached people groups took part in the first ever tentmaking course in West Africa in August/September 2005. The local leadership plans to arrange similar training annually.

Mission minded people might have heard of the Tuareg, Kasonke and Malinke people groups. These are all regarded as unreached. But all of them also had participants at the tentmaking courses in Mali last year. 30 people showed up at two courses held in the cities of Sevare and Koulikoro.

At the tentmaking courses in the West, we focus on the unreached or least reached people groups living within the 10/40 window. "At the first evening of the two courses in Mali everyone gave a short presentation of who they are. It was amazing to realize that so many unreached people groups were present. Mali has a strategic location in the far west end of the 10/40 window, and tentmakers from Mali can travel freely to many of the neighboring countries," says Global Opportunities Europe Director Steinar Opheim. He was one of the main teachers at the two courses which were run under the global tentmaking network called Tentmakers International Exchange (TIE). Everything was organized by Malian believers with Tiowa Diarra of Partners Global Missions as the key leader. The program was based on the tentmaking training that Global Opportunities, under the leadership of Ruth Siemens and Dave English, has developed.

"Beforehand we did not know how this course would work out in the cultural setting of West Africa. But according to the feedback we got, people found the course very helpful," says Steinar Opheim.

The GO Equipped course includes teaching on how to start new churches. Opheim tells a story of how this teaching gave new vision to one of the participants.

Many people think about buildings or many people coming together when they hear the word "church." When we teach, we focus much on small fellowships and house churches. Even a family or a household can function as a church. After the session on church planting, one participant told us that due to changes at work he and his family had had to move to a new place one year ago. "Until now, I had

thought that there is no church in this city. But now I know that the gatherings we are having in our family on Sunday mornings can be regarded as a church. I'll



Tentmaking course in Mali

focus on this and start to invite our neighbors and friends to this fellowship," he said.

"Malian believers do not have to go far away to reach the unreached. Unreached people groups are living on their doorstep. We can just imagine how God can work through Malians who catch the idea of tentmaking and start serving God through their workplace," says Steinar Opheim. 🌐

JET: Great ESL Opp

What wonderful opportunities my friends and I had when we were on JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program)! An elementary school principal tells you to go out tell the students what you just told him in his office about the difference between Christianity and other religions—that others are man trying to reach God and Christianity is God reaching down to man—giving you a captive audience for the gospel (my experience)... Or you visit your Board of Education one day and they ask you to take all the elementary kids in your town with you to your international church to meet the foreign kids (happened to Paul)... Or a social studies teacher decides you'd be better than he to teach who Jesus is to the social studies class and asks you to tell how Jesus relates to your life to a room full of high school students (Summer)... Or you get to lead your JTE (Japanese Teacher of English) coworker to Christ (Katherine)... Or you get to lead one of your students to Christ (Eddie)... Or you see a girl from your youth group lead one of your students to Christ that you invited (Jolene)... for just a few examples. This job can really be ministry if you are looking for it.

I highly recommend JET and INTERAC

Continued next page — "JET: Opp"

New Course

from page 1

- Build healthy teams
- Prepare to be effective
- Handle practical issues & pressures

Getting a job overseas is easy compared with being effective once you arrive. The strongest indicator that someone will be effective overseas is that they are effective here before going. *The biggest need of prospective tentmakers is to develop strong ministry skills before going.* We'd never get a job as a teacher, engineer, etc. without spending thousands of dollars and hours preparing. This course provides a great start in just a few days from which you can build needed ministry skills. Don't take our word for it. Listen to a tentmaker who just went to India to start a business a few months after taking our course in Dallas, Texas:

I can honestly say that, so far, there is nothing that was not covered. The course must truly have been developed out of years of experience in the field. I still draw on my memory of many things that were mentioned—the importance of a prayer team, jumping right into the culture, dealing with culture shock, living out what I believe during day-to-day business and the freedom that creates to not feel like something else has to be going “on the side,” the importance of opening up our home... I could go on. The course was truly sent by God at just the right time.

If you are at all considering going don't wait, sign up now at: www.globalopps.org/ltn/index.htm. This is too valuable to miss, both for you and for Christ's global mission. And tell other great commission Christians about it also. - DE 🌐

JET: Opp

from previous page

[www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/jet/]
[www.interac.co.jp/recruit/] (in that order) to teach in Japan and still have time to do a few extra things. Anyone with questions about these is welcome to email me.

Also, the Japanese government provides scholarships for foreigners wanting to study in Japanese universities (both language study and regular courses). These cover tuition and a place to live, and a bit of spending money to help you live on. This is another way to be a tentmaker in Japan with little or no other funds. University campuses are one of the ripest areas for reaching people. — Deborah Ruth deborahruth@mupijapan.org 🌐

Tentmaker Mailbag

Eastern Europe

From a tentmaker couple whose vocations have given 17 years of residence, work and ministry in 5 different countries ranging from 5 months to 8 years:

Our 5-month stay in Eastern Europe for professional development of English language teachers came to a very satisfying conclusion. Teaching a graduate-level course in a university and offering over 30 teacher training workshops brought many people into our lives in this struggling impoverished country. Our routine of living in the capital and attending an independent Russian language church expanded our social sphere even further. Gradually, while serving people's needs, the ingrained reserve toward strangers wore away. There seemed to be a felt need among English teachers in both schools and universities to pull away from classroom concerns and converse in English about common interests in a society where English is seldom used. So our hosting a dozen or so teachers on Sunday afternoons for English conversation became a high point of the week for many. When

discussing cultural trends, causes of stress, our personal response to stress, and young people's concerns in our respective countries, opportunities unfolded to share the difference Jesus Christ makes in our lives.

The closing days of our stay impressed upon us how God is faithful to use his word in people's lives. Back in September after lengthy conversation with a local young man about the difficulties of life and our faith and his agnosticism, I felt led to give him a paper-back English New Testament for possible future discussion. This young man's business often took him out of the country, and only later did I learn that soon afterward, while away, he came down with pneumonia. This forced his return to his home town outside the capital for treatment and rest...and afforded him time to read the New Testament. A few months passed, and on his return, there were signs of emerging faith. Further discussions revealed small steps of progress. Finally, he visited our apartment on the last Saturday before our departure for the US. After the usual small talk, I asked, "What did you get from the book of



Mark were to read for today?" Immediately, his eyes welled up with tears, and he struggled to say, "Why did they kill him? He died for me. I'm a sinner." So we had the joy of seeing what God had quietly done in the life of a seeker. The next day, our final Sunday in the capital, I had the privilege of preaching to the Russian speaking congregation with the support of an interpreter. The 130 people were extremely attentive to a message from Phil. 1:6 on what God has begun in our lives, what he is continuing to do, and what the completion of his work will mean for us. What a further joy to see two young men take a stand for salvation at the end of the service. Later that day at home, we had our last teacher gathering for English conversation. We felt God had bonded us in many ways, but most important, on that last weekend, we were reminded of how God was at work opening doors and entering seeking hearts. 🌐

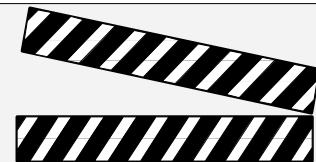
Take Action!

Sign Up for LTN!

Does zeal to see Christ exalted by other people move you? Does compassion for people who desperately need Jesus motivate you? Would you go overseas with your profession to carry the gospel if God made it clear that he wanted you to go? If so, sign up now for GO's next tentmaking course in Fort Myers, Florida at www.globalopps.org/ltn/index.htm and put it on your calendar.

Partner Financially!

Global Opportunities depends on the financial support of Christians who see the vital importance of tentmaking—of sending everyday, working, Great Commission Christians as witnesses to spiritually needy people groups. Unlike regular mission agencies, GO receives no overhead charge from the tentmakers we help to go, since they do not become GO missionary employees. They go as genu-



ine, self-supporting, Great Commission teachers, engineers, managers, etc. So we must raise funds to serve them. And the more people respond, the more we need. So we depend on people to partner with us in equipping and sending effective tentmakers. If you share this vision, please partner with GO by sending a gift now with the enclosed response form.

Host a Seminar!

GO Tentmaking Seminars open Christians' eyes to a new way to reach the world. Tentmaking calls the other 99% who will never go "full-time" into full participation in Christ's global mandate. And the seminars are inexpensive and easy to host. Want to serve Christ, help the Church and help yourself? Email tmseminars@globalopps.org and arrange one for your church or campus.