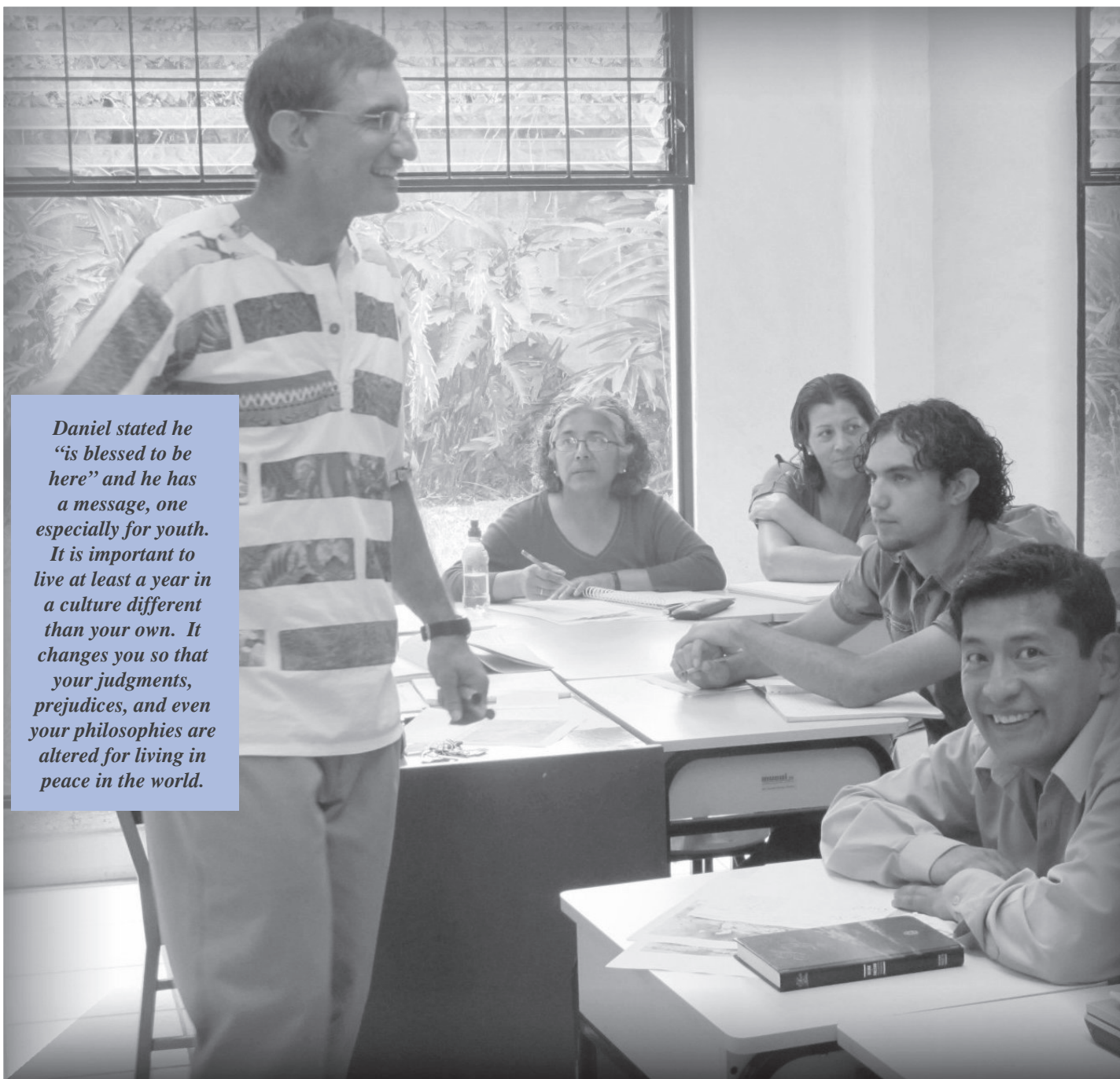


FACES

of the LATIN AMERICAN BIBLICAL UNIVERSITY, Number 35, May 2010



Daniel stated he "is blessed to be here" and he has a message, one especially for youth. It is important to live at least a year in a culture different than your own. It changes you so that your judgments, prejudices, and even your philosophies are altered for living in peace in the world.

Daniel Gloor

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DANIEL GLOOR on the cover



Daniel Gloor's father was working in Latin America at the time of his son's birth, yet Daniel never had the opportunity to live in Latin America himself, until now. The family was separated for a short time during Daniel's childhood as his grandmother suffered a stroke and required family care. With his father remaining in Mexico, the communications back home to Switzerland were always seasoned with stories of life and culture which for Daniel denoted adventure. His home was filled with small "recuerdos" of his father's work, and Daniel began to long for life and work in Latin America himself.

After completing his doctorate degree in France his mission board had 2 openings... one in Malaysia, the other Africa. Daniel prayed for a Latin America placement but nothing was available. Ten years of work in Malaysia passed and still the longing for Latin America lingered. He did not want regrets to become a part of his future, so Daniel applied for a position although he lacked any Spanish language skills. Knowing he was not equipped nor prepared for a teaching position in a Spanish speaking country, his faith led him forward.

A short time later while on vacation, he received a request to travel to the mission agency offices in Switzerland for an interview. Although he felt it would be a waste of time as he was ill prepared for such a placement,

His home was filled with small "recuerdos" of his father's work, and Daniel began to long for life and work in Latin America himself.

Meeting new faces from foreign lands ...

he prayed and a deep desire assured him this interview was right. News came via an email that he had been selected for placement in Latin America at the UBL in Costa Rica. Within 2 months he arrived to San Jose and began Spanish immersion classes.

Over the years Daniel's images of living in Latin America flourished and he awaited paradise. Friends and family sent him off with words of encouragement of the wonderful and exciting adventure that awaited him, as they had experienced on their personal vacations. But, soon after arriving he realized this was not the paradise imagined, not at all. Unlike Malaysia or Switzerland where even at night doors were often left unlocked or open, the San Jose reality was one of locks, tall fences, razor wire, and security bars. The language, monotony of utility bills, and day to day life encounters led him to feel isolated. The sense of helplessness in the beginning was a humbling experience for him, thrown into an unknown culture, becoming like a baby all over again, sensitive, with no means to defend himself, with a longing to become an adult again.

Yesterday he entered the classroom to begin teaching New Testament Greek, and felt at ease and very "adult like". Daniel stated he "is blessed to be here" and he has a message, one especially for youth. It is important to live at least a year in a culture different than your own. It changes you so that your judgments, prejudices, and even your philosophies are altered for living in peace in the world.

Daniel is now a member of the UBL academic staff, a post he will hold for the next 4 years. He will travel to Guatemala in October to teach a New Testament course at one of the UBL satellite locations.

Bienvenido a la UBL Daniel!

MARTIN HOFFMAN Germany

A Pastor of the Lutheran Church of Bavaria and a Director of the Lutheran Church Seminary for training pastors in Bavaria, Martin Hoffman has had a long standing association with the UBL. As a delegate of the Lutheran Church of Bavaria to Central America in 2003, he traveled to partner congregations in the countries of Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, where he first made contact with the UBL.

Over the past 7 years Martin has had many occasions to be a visiting lecturer at UBL seminars, with a translator present. As his Spanish language abilities have improved he is now lecturing at the UBL on the Theology of the Reformation in its Origin and its Significance Today.

For Martin the UBL continues to play an important role as a bridge between European theology and the results of European colonization and exploitation in Latin America. His recently published book regarding the development of congregations and the fundamental task of the church notes that the needs and wishes of the membership should not be our only concern, but rather the Reign of God in our world. In Europe he has witnessed congregations with decreased attendance or closing completely. What Martin feels is lacking is our being in the world now, for the Reign of God now, and that is shown in justice, peace, and trusting.

The UBL is happy to receive Martin for these 2 months in 2010 and looks forward to a continuing relationship with him and the Lutheran Church and Seminary of Bavaria.



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fundamental task of the church notes that the needs and wishes of the membership should not be our only concern, but rather the Reign of God in our world.

Sending of friendly faces back into the world...

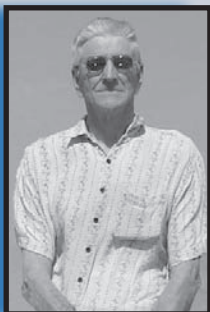
Graduation December 2009

(Professor and Student)



Giving Thanks..... Giving Thanks.....

... for Volunteer in Mission Paul Moore of Dallas, Texas (Wycliffe Bible College) who worked at the UBL for two weeks in repairs and painting. We were blessed with his presence.



... for Al and Lois Longenecker, Volunteers in Mission (Indiana Mennonite Church) who worked January through March in the UBL library. They had such a great experience they want to return in 2011. We look forward to a future visit and give thanks for their mission hearts and becoming a part of the UBL family.

... for the recent visit of Ann Burger, a UMC mission volunteer from Kansas, who was in San Jose to get to know what mission possibilities existed. Ann donated a new digital camera with all the "bells and whistles" to the UBL Seminary Library. We are grateful, Ann, for your gift of Mission and your generosity to the UBL family.



**In Switzerland
on the 30th anniversary
of the death of Archbishop
OSCAR ROMERO**



UBL Theologian Jonathan Pimentel, at the invitation of Lunden University in Switzerland, was guest lecturer in March

and led participants in the history of Liberation Theology as the world and Latin America remembered the life and death of Archbishop Romero of El Salvador.

Construction Update...

Travel to Costa Rica Supports UBL

January 2-11 of 2010 the UBL received a group of 12 individuals from the U.S. who graciously made generous donations to the UBL towards the construction of our new family housing. The group was led by Roy and Janet May (GBGM Missionaries assigned to UBL) and spent their time traveling to various spots within Costa Rica, discovering the ecological beauty this country offers. The group raised over \$5,000 dollars which has been used toward the initial construction process. We are hopeful to break ground by 2011 and will be seeking many work teams to assist in the construction throughout 2011.



United Methodist Church Advance Special:

Advance Special 10247B Student Scholarship Fund

Advance Special 09139A Theological Extension and Christian Education

GBGM online donation page: http://secure.gbgm-umc.org//donations/advance/donate_select_project.cfm

Presbyterian Church (USA) E344202 PCUSA online donation page: <http://www.pcusa.org/give/online/default.jsp>

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of the Latin American Biblical University



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