

VI. CASE STUDIES

Teamwork in Missions

The following is an interview with Mr. George Murray, who is a missionary with the Bible Christian Union, and who is Field Director for Latin-Europe.

JG: We're talking with George Murray who is a missionary to Italy under the Bible Christian Union, and George, you're the Field Director for Europe, Latin-Europe?

GM: For Latin-Europe, yes.

JG: We're especially interested in your involvement in team ministry and teamwork. What led to your keen interest in teamwork on the mission field?

GM: Well, I think a combination of things. First of all, my own background. I can't pass over that; in growing up and being in evangelistic work in the particular family that I grew up in. You were involved in this yourself, you know, often. I can't remember many times that we ministered that we weren't a team. It was always a group of us working together in presenting the Gospel to people, whether it was in a musical way or just in personal work or speaking, there was always a team and I know that my father is always desirous to have a team. So, whether teamwork is right or wrong, that was my background, so of course, I grew up thinking that way, and I saw the tremendous strengths that there are in having a team with different personalities and different gifts, etc. Then I think the other major factor that influenced me in terms of the mission field is that the majority of missionaries in the past, at least in the fields that I'm familiar with, have been working basically alone, especially if you're talking about evangelism and church planting. If you're talking about institutional work, of course, you've got a concentration of missionaries in a school or hospital, but in evangelism and church planting it's been pretty much the lone man out there trying to do the job. Over the long haul it has proved very frustrating and although one or two have succeeded in building a work of some kind, the majority have not seen much in the way of results. Of course, the whole thought was if we split our missionaries up then we will be able to reach more cities because there are so many places with no Gospel