

## **Mister Potatohead Goes on a Mission**

By Delron Shirley

To most of us Mister Potatohead is an old childhood friend that we probably haven't seen in many years. However, I recently ran into him again and discovered that since our last visit he has been to Bible school and is now an ordained minister--Minister Potatohead, if you please. As I was planning my recent mission to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, I invited him to come along. He was excited about the opportunity to go on his first international mission and told me that he wanted to minister on "The Holes in Your Head," a sermon in which he demonstrates how what you see and hear determines what gets inside your heart and how that what is inside your heart will determine what comes out of your mouth. Everybody loved him, and he proved to be a great addition to the mission team. In the adult teaching times as well as in the children's meetings, the audience gazed with undivided attention as Minister Potatohead popped his eyeballs, ears, and lips on and off to prove his point.

In addition to my old childhood friend, I was accompanied on this trip by two students from Charis Bible College where I teach in Colorado Springs. Gayle and Robert are considering ministries as missionaries and joined me on this trip as an introduction to life on the mission field. After having them spend a week with me and participate in the three-day pastors' conference in Haiti and a couple days of whirlwind ministry in the Dominican Republic, I left them in Santiago, DR, in the capable hands of Tim and Trena Johnson for an additional five weeks of orientation by total immersion in missions life -- village evangelism, open-air crusades in the city parks, one-on-one evangelism, preaching in local churches, ministering during the altar call, food distribution to the areas which were devastated by recent natural disasters, and even some construction experience as they assist with the new ministry facility which is being erected at the mission compound.

The trip was very short, but it was packed with activity. Although the meeting in Haiti were specifically designed as a pastors' conference, the evening meetings were open to the public. The result was an interesting mix of people from all different levels of spiritual maturity. In fact, during the altar service of one night meeting, there were three different people who began to scream and writhe under demonic control. After only a short disruption, I was able to set them free and continue with the

service. After the conference in Haiti, we took an all-day overland bus trip to the Dominican Republic where we spoke at a children's crusade, a pastors' conference with over four hundred pastors and wives gathered for the leadership training, and services in two different churches. After one of the services, we assisted in distributing food to the victims of a recent flood which took many lives and left thousands homeless.

Tim Johnson, the missionary who organized the Dominican Republic portion of the mission, told me that in the months since our last conference there, he has heard a number of the pastors quoting from the lessons they learned then. How exciting it is to see that the ministry is bearing fruit and that it is remaining. Referring to the way that most people in the Dominican Republic like to show their interest in a message by "amening" or shouting out during the preaching, one pastor told me after the session, "When you're teaching, I just want to be quiet and hear every word." This time we left behind teaching manuals to be translated and printed in Spanish for the pastors in the Dominican Republic and in French for the pastors in Haiti. This expansion of our outreach to the pastors will exponentially enhance the effectiveness of our ministry.

### **Nepal, Here I Come Again**

I answered with the traditional, "I'll pray about it," when Solon Karthak, our long-time friend and the director of our ministry in Nepal, emailed me about trying to come to Nepal this spring. Since I had just been there in November and I was busy planning and raising funds for missions to other parts of the world, I felt that I would probably not return to Nepal again so soon -- especially in light of the fact that TAN is planning a large women's conference in Nepal this fall. However, just a few days later I was contacted by Every Home for Christ and asked to attend a meeting with their directors for South Asia which is being held in Kathmandu. I thought, "Boy, this really is an answer to that prayer!" -- even though I didn't pray with any real anticipation of changing my already-made-up mind. I immediately contacted Solon and asked him to go ahead and set up the pastors' conference and arrange for other ministry in the city. I'll be leaving Colorado on Leap Year Day and arrive in Nepal in time for the three-day EHC conference (March 3-5). Afterwards, TAN will host a two-day pastors' conference (March 6-7), and I'll be preaching in churches on Saturday and Sunday (March 8-9).

We request your prayers for this mission and invite your financial gifts to assist in this short-notice outreach.

When we relocated to Colorado Springs, we felt that it was a direct leading of the Lord so that we would be able to network with other ministries who share our heart for training leaders around the world. In the few short months that we have been in the city, the Lord has indeed opened doors for us to do exactly that. The recent trip to Haiti and the Dominican Republic in partnership with Charis Bible College and the upcoming mission to Nepal with Every Home for Christ are the first fulfillments of this networking. These opportunities to partner with other ministries will greatly broaden the scope of our ministry plus provide some assistance with travel expenses, freeing up our funds to expand the scope of what we do in the conferences and in providing literature for the pastors. Please pray with us for wisdom as we continue to go through the doors of opportunity that the Lord places before us.