

“ESPERANZA ETERNA”

Bringing Hope for Eternity to Latin America and Beyond



Mission Newsletter

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Thinking Back—Looking Ahead

WOW! It is hard to believe that 2011 is half over! In this report, I will try to give a flavor of some of our major activities for the first half of the year. Although we provide more frequent reports which are available on the website, several have indicated they would enjoy more complete summaries of our activities in the two reports we mail each year (about the middle of the year and near the end of December).

Looking back on the last six months gives us perspective in the many different ways God is using this ministry and also assists us as we look for the future and work with scheduling. Although our ministry has a significant U.S. emphasis, our primary purpose is to share the gospel and facilitate mission efforts in Latin America.

Summarizing 2011: January to June

Summarizing our ministry in the U.S., in January we concluded our interim ministry with the **Holmes Road church in Lansing, Michigan**. The final weeks were filled with opportunities for evangelism, and there were three baptisms during the last half of January. We returned to Holmes Road for their 50th Anniversary Celebration in March. Through meetings and consultations, we have also had the opportunity to assist a church that is struggling with leadership and ministry issues. I preached at the **Iglesia de Cristo at Park Plaza in Tulsa**, taught a Bible class for the **Edmond** church, preached at **Fort Gibson**, preached at **Kiowa**, and also had the privilege of preaching at **Main and Oklahoma in McAlester** several times. I met with several missions committees and spoke to individuals about the potential for Latin American missions, especially at Baxter Institute. I also recorded another set of DVDs (13 lessons) for the **New Life Behavior Prison Ministry**. With the completion of this set, I have recorded 118 lessons for sharing the gospel behind prison walls.

From our U.S. base, we are working on several mission support projects, including initial conversations about serving as coordinator for Spanish outreach efforts with **Quest for Truth (En Busca de la Verdad)** evangelistic Bible study materials. In late June, I spoke at the **Latin American Leadership Training Workshop** in Houston. The workshop was attended by several U.S. elders, church leaders, and mission committee members, and there were also several Latin Americans who are involved in the leadership training program present. I served as translator for a Sunday Bible class and morning worship service at the Memorial Church. Sunday evening I attended the bilingual service at Northwest in Houston. I anticipate that my involvement in both of these efforts will increase significantly during the last half of 2011.

Our schedule included **three mission trips** during the first half of the year: Bob and Jan shared a trip to Guatemala in March-April followed by a trip to Honduras in May. Bob returned to Honduras in June as part of the mission team from the Main and Oklahoma church.





The trip to Guatemala was detailed in the June newsletter online so I will summarize only briefly here. This trip allowed us to spend time with the church in Milpas Altas and also with the church in Antigua while we enjoyed more linguistic and cultural studies. I preached in Milpas Altas and we enjoyed some special time also with members from the Antigua congregation. In Guatemala City I taught a leadership seminar at BICA-Guatemala (picture, previous page), and on Saturday presented a seminar at the Zone 8 church (picture, left), “The Importance of the Family of the Christian Leader.” There were about 150

present from 14 congregations. On Sunday I preached at the Pinares church and that afternoon spoke at the dedication of an alcohol and drug treatment center, El Sembrador (the Sower). We enjoyed our time with the brothers and sisters in Christ, and also the opportunity to study and practice our Spanish. We had an interesting Bible study with two Canadian ladies we met—in Spanish, since their primary language was French.

The primary purpose of the **May trip to Honduras** was to speak on the **Baxter Seminar** (picture, right). The assigned topic for my class was “Evidences of Spiritual Life in the Church.” We also enjoyed hosting Erik Tryggestad from the “Christian Chronicle” as he visited campus to work on a feature story about Baxter. On Sunday evening, I spoke on the national television program sponsored by the churches of Christ in Honduras. Thursday evening I preached at Los Pinos and the following Sunday I preached at the Guanacaste church.



The **June trip to Honduras** included two construction projects undertaken in cooperation with the La Vega church. We worshiped with this church the evening before we returned to the U.S. The mission group worshiped with the Los Pinos church where a program to feed children who attend Bible classes is a significant part of their outreach. On Sunday we visited the new church plant at Talanga and had the privilege of witnessing three baptisms. I was able to squeeze out time for some Baxter and clinic meetings along the way, but especially enjoyed the time with the group as they worked to support the efforts of our Honduran brothers and sisters.

Thank You for your Prayers and Support

Again, I would be happy to share our mission story or the Baxter story with your congregation. We are thankful for your support and for the opportunity to be involved in spreading the gospel in Latin America. We appreciate those who support our efforts regularly, but also appreciate one-time gifts. Every contributor receives both activity reports and financial reports. We appreciate your prayers on behalf of the work we share. The overview of Tegucigalpa pictured below reminds us that there is much work to be done in all of the major cities of Latin America and around the world.

Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you),

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