

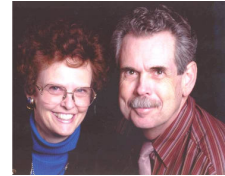
ESPERANZA ETERNA

Bringing Hope for Eternity to Latin America and Beyond

Mission Newsletter

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I spent most of April in Chile and Uruguay and much of May in Honduras, so there is much to share—more than I can include in this report. Unfortunately, Jan could not accompany me on these trips.

Chile and Uruguay

There are 36 congregations in **Chile**, a country of about 17 million people, with 12 congregations in the capital city of Santiago, a city of over 6 million. About 85% of the population of Chile lives in urban areas. I worked primarily with the **Nogales congregation** in Santiago (*picture at right*) where I conducted



a three-day evangelistic campaign and Friday and Saturday leadership seminar. Members and leaders from several Santiago congregations attended the seminar. I taught several home Bible studies and also taught a Bible study in the jail. Continuing the process



described in a previous newsletter, I met with the four elders at Nogales, as a group and individually, to hear their questions and to understand more of the challenges they face. While in Santiago I met with the leadership team in **Providencia** where the church hopes to appoint elders by the end of 2012. I preached in Colinas one Sunday afternoon and made two preaching trips to Los Andes to help strengthen the church [*mid-week Bible study group in Los Andes, top right picture.*] My last weekend in Chile, I spoke at a congregational retreat [*lower right picture*]. **There were 8 baptisms during the time in Chile.**



In **Montevideo, Uruguay**, **Helmer Rosero** [*on the left in the picture*] and I presented a leadership seminar and various Bible studies. One of the church leaders in Montevideo is **Oscar Machado** [*on the right in the picture*]. Helmer and I stayed in the home of Oscar and his wife, Evelyn. The seminar was well attended, and the trip provided an opportunity to meet the leaders of the congregation and to understand more of the challenges of the church in Uruguay.



On this trip to the southern hemisphere, I was surprised by how disorienting it was to always have the sun in the north. Although it was fall (like our October), as we flew eastward from Santiago to Montevideo, the sun came in the north windows of the plane rather than in the south windows. Santiago is a city with obvious European influences. The Santiago Metro system provides easy and quick transportation. I was impressed by the long tunnels one encounters when leaving Santiago by car (for the preaching trips, and for the one-day sight-seeing trip to Valparaiso and Viña del Mar).

Montevideo, Uruguay is an old stately city, interesting because the old and the new exist side by side. Horse drawn carriages and carts move alongside older model cars and newer cars. The tree-lined, canopied streets are intriguing as is the beach along the Rio Plata (which looks more like an ocean than a river). The beach extends for several kilometers along the city front. With travel delays in the US, the return trip from Montevideo was 31 hours.



Leadership and Planning Seminar

Two days after my return from Chile and Uruguay, I traveled to Houston to present a leadership and planning seminar at the Northwest church. We began with a men's breakfast on Saturday morning with 36 in attendance. We worked diligently through the morning and developed an updated mission and vision statement which sharpened the evangelistic commitment and process and focused on spiritual growth, evangelism, and mission involvement. I taught the adult Bible class and preached twice on Sunday. About 30 men also attended a Sunday afternoon session where we summarized the weekend and recommitted to serve as spiritual leaders with a plan to move the church forward in the plan and purpose of God.

Honduras

In May, I was in Honduras where I presented leadership seminars and had several opportunities to teach and preach. During the first week, I taught a class at the annual seminar at **Baxter Institute** where I was assigned the topic of the eldership. I preached at **Los Pinos** at the midweek service. The building was filled and almost overflowing with 92 present on Thursday evening, plus lots of children.



From Tegucigalpa, I traveled by bus to **Catacamas** where I preached at **San Isidro** on Wednesday, presented a leadership seminar at **Escuela Biblica Honduras** on Friday and Saturday [picture at left], and preached at **El Colegio** on Sunday. I enjoyed renewing friendships and acquaintances with many we have known through the years in Catacamas. It was good to spend time with **David and Suyapa Chacon**, with the **Matamoras** family, and with **Chendo Antuñez**. On Saturday afternoon, I visited members in **Arimis**. In Catacamas, I stayed with **Dwight and Joanne Tomkins** who were wonderful hosts.

Moving to Tulsa--Park Plaza—Evangelistic Bible Studies

A major change in our lives over the past two months is that we began the transition from McAlester to Tulsa. We currently have two residences—our home in McAlester and an apartment in Tulsa, but the sale of our home in McAlester will allow us to purchase a home in Tulsa. We have chosen Park Plaza as our home congregation and look forward to spending time with both the Anglo church and the Hispanic church. (The McAlester church still serves as a receiving congregation for this mission effort.) Work on the evangelistic study series is progressing more slowly than I had hoped, but is about 50% complete.

Thank You for your Prayers and Support

We enjoy sharing the excitement of missions in this newsletter. We are very appreciative of your interest, prayers and support. We are excited about the opportunities God provides for our involvement in spreading the gospel and strengthening local churches in Latin America. The major cities of our world are a fertile field for the gospel. There is much work to be done. Indeed, the harvest is plenteous but the workers are few.

Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you),
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An overview of Valparaiso, Chile, and the church building in Montevideo (there are only three congregations in Uruguay), remind that multitudes are in need of the gospel, especially in the large, teeming metropolitan cities.

