

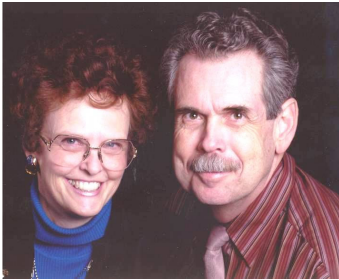
# ***ESPERANZA ETERNA***

***Bringing Hope for Eternity to Latin America and Beyond***

## **Mission-Ministry Newsletter**

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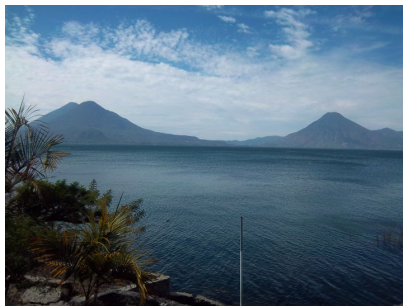
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My March report concluded with a brief explanation that the report was being posted early because I was on my way to Guatemala. This report tells about March, April and May activities, including trips to Guatemala and Peru plus stateside activities.

### **March--Guatemala**

The purpose of the trip to Guatemala (February 28-March 11) was to provide leadership training and consulting for indigenous churches, primarily in the western part of Guatemala in the departments of Sololá and Quiché. A long travel day to Sololá (including a 3½ bus trip) left little time for anything but rest and orientation on Thursday. Most of Friday was spent in Godínez (1½ hours by bus) where there is a small congregation in need of encouragement. I arrived in Sololá just in time for a late afternoon meeting with three men who are elder candidates. We studied the Bible and answered questions for two hours before the regular Friday night Bible study with the church. We left at 6 AM on Saturday to travel to Chimaltenango (2 hours by bus) where we met with a group of area church leaders to plan the national conference of the churches of Christ in Guatemala. My purpose was to provide counsel and encouragement toward the maturing of the Guatemalan churches. One of the classes in this year's conference will focus on the need for biblical organization and leadership.



The church in Sololá usually meets at 3:30 PM on Sunday, but this Sunday began in the early morning because a young couple whom I had met on Friday evening wanted to be baptized. About a dozen of us met at the square to take the bus to Lake Atitlan. The Sololá church has **one of the most magnificent baptisteries in the world!** After singing, prayer, Bible reading, and a brief study on the shore of the lake, we were ready for the baptisms. The young couple has been married 20 months. They have been attending church services regularly and were obviously pleased to be establishing a strong foundation for their lives and their family.



At the afternoon assembly, I preached from Ephesians on the importance of the church and God's purpose for the church. Afterward, I walked about a kilometer to Adán and Miriam's house for coffee and bread. The evening temperatures in Sololá were near freezing or slightly below and the wind was extremely strong. As I started to walk back to the hotel, I encountered a taxi that had just dropped off passengers near Adán's. Was I glad to avoid the walk in the cold!



Monday we took a bus to Santa Cruz de Quiché (1 ½ hours) where I spoke to a group of 18 leaders from four congregations. We met from 9 AM to 4 PM. Most of these congregations worship in the Quiché language, but a few have bilingual (Quiché and Spanish) services. One of the churches has elders and deacons and is biblically organized. I arrived at the hotel at 6 PM— another 12 hour day! **On Tuesday and Wednesday I presented a leadership seminar**

in **Chichicastenango** (about an hour by bus). There were 20 present for the seminar from seven churches. We met from 9 AM to 4 PM both days.

When Adán and I got back to Sololá on Wednesday, it was time for Wednesday night Bible study. I taught from Ephesians again, focusing on our new life in Christ. Wednesday was a long day, beginning at 6:30 AM and ending about 9:30 PM. All of the days were long, but spending time with the churches and with church leaders was rewarding and refreshing.

Thursday I traveled by bus to Antigua where I met Esteban Marroquin in the market so that we could go together to San Juan del Obispo where he and his family are working to establish a new congregation. The congregation is only 3 months old, but there were 13 present for the Thursday night Bible study. We ate supper after the Bible study and visited until almost 11 PM. I had met Esteban and Faustina on previous trips to Guatemala and enjoyed my stay in their home. (Update: While I was in Peru, I received an email from Esteban telling of 21 baptisms that occurred during their first campaign, and then another email concerning another baptism. Praise be to our God who works marvelously through us to change lives!)



On Friday, I traveled to Milpas Altas. I was asked to teach about the nature of the church at the Friday night Bible study. I began in the Old Testament and concluded in Revelation. The study lasted almost 2 hours. On Saturday, I made several visits and Bible studies with Marvin and Hilario Tercero and we also discussed the needs of the churches in Guatemala. On Sunday I preached at the morning service at Milpas Altas. After lunch we went to Guatemala City (about 45 minutes by car) where **I preached at the evening service at Centro Histórico**. This church began in January 2012 and had about 100 baptisms in the first year. The attendance on Sunday night was 86. As is normal, it was late when we got back to Milpas Altas.

**SUMMARY:** During the Guatemala trip, I preached and taught in seven different congregations, plus I presented seminars in two locations, spending about 40 hours in formal teaching and preaching during the 10 days. About 60 church leaders from 20 different congregations were present for the seminars and Saturday session. The church in Sololá will hopefully be able to appoint elders during this calendar year or very early next year. There were two baptisms during the trip.

## **U.S. Activities**

During an extended time stateside, I attended the annual international Soul-Winning Workshop in Tulsa and gave a mission report at Fort Gibson. One reason for scheduling an extended time in the U.S. was that I had been asked to teach a Wednesday night adult Bible class at Park Plaza during March, April and May. I also helped with the Sunday morning Bible class in the Hispanic congregation, spent time on Baxter projects, and attended a luncheon on campus at Oklahoma Christian. On the last weekend of April (25-28) I preached a special series for the two Hispanic churches in Tulsa, with a regional fellowship on Saturday which was attended by about 250 brothers and sisters from churches Arkansas and Oklahoma.

## **May—Peru**

In May, I spoke at the national preacher's retreat for the preachers of the gospel and other church leaders in Cusco, Peru. The three congregations in Cusco jointly hosted the event which was attended by over 100 Christians. Preachers and church leaders came from various parts of the nation of Peru and also from



Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia. The formal program began with a 7 AM breakfast and concluded each evening session at about 9 PM. I taught on biblical leadership and the importance of



language studies for accurate Bible interpretation. On Saturday evening a young couple was baptized into Christ. Pedro Flores, a Baxter graduate who ministers in Trujillo, Peru, was instrumental in the study and baptisms.

These retreats provide opportunities to talk about practical ministry and to deal with questions. In addition to the three days spent in large sessions, in informal sessions I was able to address specific questions and needs in the context of the healthy development of the churches. I am always amazed by the hunger and thirst for information and instruction.

During my time in Peru I also spent three days in Lima. I spent one day teaching at the Inter-American Bible Institute; another day was spent learning more about the history of the work in Lima and Peru and for teaching at the Santo Domingo congregation; on Sunday I taught and preached at Santo Domingo and spent time with church leaders as we discussed the future of the work in Peru.



These trips open doors as invitations are received to visit even more churches where members are receptive, ready to receive biblical instruction to help in the development of the church with well-prepared teachers and leaders.

**SUMMARY:** During the trip, I preached and taught in four different congregations and taught at the national preachers' conference for the churches of Christ in Peru. About 100 church leaders from 20 different congregations and six different nations were present for the seminar. I spent about 10 hours in formal teaching and preaching during the trip, but enjoyed many opportunities for informal conversations, teaching, mentoring, coaching, Bible study, and answering questions. There were two baptisms during the trip.

### **Thank You! – Muchas Gracias!**

I am grateful for those who read these reports and support this work, whether financially or in prayer. The work we are doing in Latin America is possible only by God's grace, and God is the one who calls us and places us for service according to our gifts, opening and closing doors as we strive to make his purpose our purpose. The work of strengthening and edifying local churches with the goal of developing healthy model churches, the work of developing biblical leadership in the churches, and the goal of equipping the local church for ministry, evangelism and missional church planting—these things God has laid on my heart, and we endeavor with all our might to do his will to his glory. My prayer is that God will bless all of us richly as we seek his will. [**Note:** all travelogues and reports are posted at [www.bobyoungrsources/missions/mission-reports.htm](http://www.bobyoungrsources/missions/mission-reports.htm).]

*Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you),*  
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***[In the great cities of Latin America many people are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ and Christians hunger and thirst for the word of God and encouragement toward healthy church development and effective leadership]***