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## ESPERANZA ETERNA

Bringing Hope for Eternity to Latin America and Beyond

## Mission-Ministry Newsletter

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This newsletter is shorter than some but I think I should report on late summer and early fall activities and my October trip to Uruguay and Chile. In the next newsletter I will report on November and December trips to Guatemala and Honduras and summarize the activities and work of this ministry in 2013.

When I arrived home in mid-August after three months of almost nonstop mission trips, my "to do" list was very long—various details, correspondence

concerning future mission trips, writing projects, website updates...it took most of the rest of August to catch up on paperwork and correspondence. In August and September, I had to spend a lot of time on various Amicus (Baxter) matters with a couple of executive committee meetings and lots of emails and document preparation. In mid-September, Jan and I went to **Michigan** where we participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the church in **Plymouth**. We ministered with the Plymouth church almost 40 years ago (unbelievable!) and it was encouraging to renew friendships, meet new friends, and see the church maturing and stable. We also visited the **Holmes Road church in Lansing** where I was asked to speak about the importance of the involvement of every member in the local church. Sunday evening I preached about the importance of mission work in the local church and reported on our mission report.

The first weekend of October, I flew to Montevideo, Uruguay for a seminar [pictured right, the church building in Montevideo]. Friday travel from Tulsa to Miami made it possible for me to be at the Miami airport at 8 AM Saturday and made the flight schedule (Miami to Sao Paulo to Montevideo) manageable. Nonetheless, it was after 1 AM on Sunday morning when I finally cleared immigration and customs in Uruguay. The Montevideo airport is some distance out of the city but I was settled into the guest apartment at the church building by 2 AM. Because the seasons are reversed in the southern hemisphere, spring is



coming and I arrived in Uruguay on the weekend of the time change. I set my watch for 3 AM and was more than ready for the bed.

I preached and taught the Bible class on Sunday and the seminar continued from Monday through Wednesday. Along with the seminar, there were opportunities for daily studies and contacts with the members. This is a difficult time for this small, struggling group of believers. The church has never been very large but it is slowly declining in number. Uruguay is a very secular culture with European influences and the church struggles with how to share the gospel in its context. I spent extended time with seven families as I tried to understand more of the history of the church and to help think about the future. After five days in Montevideo, I flew to **Santiago, Chile**.

The three-day seminar in **Santiago** began on Saturday in a Community Center facility with a meeting of seven area congregations, and continued on Sunday and Monday at the **Nogales** church building. It was good to be able to spend time the new elders from the **Providencia** church. I had met them on my

2012 trip, but I was impressed anew with their commitment and excitement about the future at Providencia. On Tuesday I visited in Providencia and spent some time with **Zane Perkins** and his family [pictured below right, in the courtyard of the church building at Providencia].

Another of the joys of the trip was the opportunity to visit with **Christian and Carla** [pictured below left, with one of the elders from Nogales]. On my previous trip I studied the Bible with Christian in prison. He is now a Christian and he and his wife and son are happily involved in the church.



On Thursday, I went to **Los Andes** to meet with the church (about two hours north of Santiago). The church is growing in number and is saving to purchase its own property. It currently meets in a woodworking shop and is known as the "church in the shop." In addition to spending



time with the leaders and two hours of Bible study with the church, I was able to study personally with a young lady who is very interested in the Bible. I did not arrive back in Santiago until about 11 PM.

Friday I traveled seven hours to the south from Santiago to meet with a mission team of four U.S. couples in **Concepción**. Friday evening, I spoke at **Chiguayante** with members present also from the small churches in Lota and Coronel. After the evening of study and fellowship in Chiguayante, I drove to **Chillán**, arriving by midnight. Saturday morning we drove about an hour to **Miraflores** to meet with a



small group of believers there, and on Saturday afternoon and evening, I presented a seminar in Chillán [pictured left, the Saturday evening seminar]. The church in Chillán was reestablished about a year ago and is growing in healthy ways. They current meet in the preacher's home but will soon have to find a new location. There were eight baptisms just before my arrival and many more studies and contacts are in place. After preaching and teaching on Sunday morning with the church in Chillán, it was time to drive back to Santiago to catch the late evening flight to Miami. With delays once I was back in the U.S.,

the travel time from Chillan to my house was 32 hours!

During the trip, I spent time with church members and leaders from twelve congregations. In most places I presented an in-depth study of Ephesians, although with recently established churches I focused the study in 1 Thessalonians. The 30+ hours of teaching and preaching tells only part of the story. One person describes the work this way: "The seminars are an excuse to get involved in the lives of the members and churches to provide encouragement and advice." There is always more time spent in informal conversations and studies than in formal teaching and preaching.

Jan and I are thankful for those who have an interest in and support this work. This work of strengthening and edifying local churches to develop healthy model churches, developing biblical leadership in the churches, and equipping local church for ministry, evangelism and missional church planting is possible only by God's grace. It is God who calls us, places us in service according to our gifts, and opens doors for ministry and missions. [Note: all reports are available at <a href="https://www.bobyoungresources/missions/mission-reports.htm">www.bobyoungresources/missions/mission-reports.htm</a>.]

Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you), Bob and Jan Young 918.470.0421 (cell) bro.bobyoung@yahoo.com

