

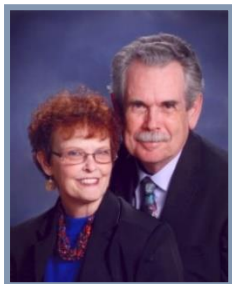
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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Reporting what God is doing

In Acts 14:27, Luke says that when Paul arrived back in Antioch after the first missionary journey, **“they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith.”**

In this issue, I share a translation of a report from one of the elders at the Neyba, Dominican Republic church, describing the ongoing church planting efforts. A network of churches is being established, resulting in many new Christians and new churches.

REPORT OF MISSION WORKS AND TRIPS

By Manuel Aquino

APRIL and MAY 2021

May God bless all our brothers and companions in the spiritual battle.

During these months, we were able to accomplish various activities related to the church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- MONTH OF APRIL

On April 3-4 we had a visit from brother Leo González from the Bellas Colinas congregation in the capital. He preached the Word to us, using the theme, **No Turning Back**.

- SUNDAY 11

We had a service with good attendance of both children and adults in Vista al Lago. The theme for the day was, **A Church that is Growing**.

- SUNDAY 18

This Sunday was very busy as we were responsible for the worship service in the church in Vista al Lago, where I preached a sermon titled, **The Mercy and Compassion of God**.

Afterward, brother Lucas Feliz (*picture right*) and your servant left to visit the church in La Descubierta and the church in Ángel Feliz.

The purpose of our trip was to encourage the faith of our brothers and to investigate the purchase of property for the church, for the house of worship for the church in La Descubierta (*pictures below*) and the possible construction of a house of worship for the church in Ángel Feliz where they already have their land (*picture next page, upper right*).



The brothers in both churches felt great joy and hope when they met with us since they do not have church buildings for the meetings together.

[Picture right, property of the church in Ángel Feliz where the church building will be built.]

- SUNDAY 25

This Sunday was very good, filled with much commitment, love, and spiritual rejoicing, because we traveled together (the brothers Eduardo Urbáez, Dawson Civil, Básico, and your servant Manuel Aquino Castro) to the church in Guayabal with a good quantity of basic food items, clothing, and sheets and towels (see pictures related to the visit to Guayabal below). These donations were made thanks to the church (iglesia de Cristo in Gascue, Santo Domingo D.R.), with their preacher and our fellow-worker, Brother Daniel Nin.

The church in Guayabal is returning to some normalcy after being closed for several weeks due to the problem that left more than 20 Haitian families without houses, including six families among the Haitian brothers and sisters in this church. The problem that we already described (in the previous report) was because a Haitian who is not a Christian killed a Dominican farmer, which occasioned that some Dominicans burned the houses of some Haitians.

According to what a builder told me, to help to reconstruct one of these houses, we would need \$2500 with all of the labor included.

[Delivering much needed supplies during the visit to the church in Guayabal.]



MONTH OF MAY

- SUNDAY MAY 2

I led the service in Vista al Lago with a sermon titled, **Knowing the Teachings of the Church of Christ**.

- SUNDAY MAY 9

We had a visit from Bobby Moore from the Christian Relief Fund and he presented to us a talk titled, **A Church that is Growing**.

- SUNDAY MAY 16

We worked hard this day. When the service in Vista al Lago was over, at 11:00 AM, brother Christofer and your servant left for the iglesia de Cristo that meets in Higo de la Cruz. There the church was waiting for us, assembled together with their preacher, brother Simón.

We had much joy with the brothers there and we worked together with all of the Haitian brothers who do not have legal documents with the goal of helping them through this process of legalization. We ask you to help us with prayers for those brothers in all of the Haitian churches who are in similar circumstances. *(Pictures immediately below, meeting with the church in Higo de la Cruz.)*



- SUNDAY MAY 23

With the primary purpose of dedicating the meeting place of the iglesia de Cristo in Duvergé *(picture, left)*, where the building was finished on Saturday, May 22, some brothers from Neyba and Villa Jaragua made certain that we were present.

There was much enthusiasm in the church in Duvergé as they were able to enter and meet together for worship in their new building. The topic that was preached that night in Duvergé was titled, **The House of Jehovah**.

- THURSDAY MAY 27

This was a historic day for the iglesia de Cristo in La Descubierta. Some days back, we had visited the preacher of this congregation so he could show us the land that was potentially being sold to the church. We went to see the land that day, but we did not give any hope that we were going to buy it. We only asked that they pray with the church toward this goal. When we arrived at his house on Thursday, May 27, we found brother Mache on his knees praying and fasting without knowing that that same day we were going to buy the property for the church. He became very happy and thankful to God for responding to his pleadings.

We bought the land and we have a quantity of money in savings for the construction. The price of the purchase was RD\$ 110.000.00 (slightly under USD \$2000). Soon we will be able to inform you of the exact

amount left over after the purchase, but we have not yet paid the notary. We are going to clean the property and fence it with wire fencing.

The church in La Descubierta is full of rejoicing for acquiring this property. *(Pictures below.)*



- SUNDAY MAY 30

We had a very good attendance of children and adults in the morning worship to celebrate Mother's Day. The sermon was titled, **Always Mama.**

With this report, I am including a budget for the construction of each of the meeting places with a zinc coated roof. Now there are seven congregations that have their own land where we are able to begin to build permanent structures.
 $\text{RD } \$546,930.00 / \text{US } \$56.00 = \text{US } \$9,766.60$

An Update from Bob Young (as of June 7, 2021)

I share part of a letter received from Manuel's wife yesterday.

"Here the pandemic situation is gaining strength again. Two people died recently in Neyba. The curfew was implemented again. And also, the group meeting restrictions. We keep praying for mercy from God. My aunt died of COVID in Honduras."