

## the LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONS newsletter

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### In this Issue...



Graduating Six Families (Pg.1)

Why did I come to the Bible School of the Americas? Students Respond (Pg.9)

Invigorated in the Lord's Service (Pg. 2)

Honors & Memorials (Pg.10)

The Eyes of a Child (Pg. 4)

Julio Cruz: A Pioneer for the Gospel in Panamá (Pg.6)

Servants in Need (Pg.11)

Short Term Mission Trips (Pg. 8)

### Beginning the 50th year of training Preachers by graduating 6 families

by Jack Farber

We rejoice once again with another year completed and the culmination of two years of intense training for three couples and three single men; they completed their 56 course of study and obtained their diplomas and certificates for successfully finishing their work at the Bible School of the Americas.

Our graduates came from different countries: Oscar and Juanna Herazo from Honduras, Juanel and Rut Morris from the San Blas Islands in Panama, Luis and Marta Cerdas from Nicaragua, and Julio Mella from the Dominican Republic; William Savedra (our student of honor) is from Nicaragua, and Luis Briones is from Peru.



(Continued on page 5)

### Where We Serve

Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
El Salvador  
Honduras  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Peru

### How We Serve

Mobile Medical Missions  
Print Ministry  
Native Preacher Training  
Benevolence  
Native Preacher Support  
Construction  
Evangelistic Campaigns  
Disaster Relief  
Children's Home



### Why We Serve

"I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, in prison and you fed me, gave me drink, welcomed me, clothed me, visited me and came to me. Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" Matthew 25:36-40

*Guest Editorial:*

## How can your congregation be totally invigorated in the Lord's Service?

*Paul Brown*

It was the eternal purpose of God that the saving gospel should be made known to all mankind through the efforts of the church, the body of Christ. As such, the church was commanded by the Lord to, "...GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age". The apostle Paul in showing that there was no distinction between Jews and Gentiles, said for "whoever calls on the name of the lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in who they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?" Someone has rightly said, "That verse tells us we better get to work, right now". People everywhere must hear the gospel to be saved.

Your congregation may be much like ours was for many years. Most individuals were doing little to evangelize within the local area other than regular Sunday meetings where the sign on the front lawn invited local residents to come in and hear the gospel preached by our gospel preacher. We were quite generous in sending money to others to assist them in doing foreign evangelism but doing nothing from a personal perspective. We had ignored the old adage, "go ye means go me" for much too long. About ten years ago our congregation was invigorated to do more evangelism both abroad and at home. We can tell a different story now. For the size of the congregation, a large percentage is now involved personally in both local and foreign personal evangelism.

*"...the way you build a fire is to take one hot coal and begin to blow on it. Then place another coal close to that one and then another and another, and soon you will have a roaring fire that will consume the world..."*

Let me tell you part of the story. Let me tell you about something that can invigorate you and your congregation in every respect; in enthusiasm, outreach, teaching, benevolence, giving, attendance, evangelism, worship, and prayer life of the entire church. LAM is intimately involved in the story.

In anticipation of a personal evangelism trip to Nigeria in 2005, I was contacted by Jim Pelfrey, who had previously served as an elder with the Lord's church at Seven Hills in Lynchburg, VA. He was currently serving under the eldership at Mt Juliet, Tennessee, and a congregation who had been involved with Latin American Missions efforts in El Salvador

for many years. Because of his encouragement to participate in a LAM mission trip, the pending trip to Nigeria was put on hold, knowing that my skills could be better used in a Spanish speaking country. That year our LAM trip was an Evangelism/Medical mission to Santa Elena in El Salvador. The experience of sharing the gospel with so many people in such a short time and viewing the obvious results was inspiring. The

cooperation of so many people including Christians from 5 or 6 states, and other Christians, primarily gospel preachers, from Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico and perhaps others, was exhilarating. The organization that had been provided, obviously the effort of many people over many years, was unbelievable. And above all, the love expressed in doing this great work for the Lord in a place that lacked most of the comforts of home was so satisfying that we departed the work with much sadness and a strong desire to return the following year. Without explaining all the details I can say that this experience "set me on fire for personal evangelism".

Reporting the experience to the congregation with words and pictures excited several others and particularly a young Christian teenager who made it known that he was interested in becoming a missionary after graduation from college some 5 years in the future. The next 2 years Zack Bear went along on the mission to El Salvador where he was also "set

on fire” for evangelism. His reports excited the congregation and especially the teenagers as he and several teens and another adult made the trip the following year. Someone once said, the way you build a fire is to take one hot coal and begin to blow on it. Then place another coal close to that one and then another and another, and soon you will have a roaring fire that will consume the world. I believe that LAM has helped us set the congregation on fire for evangelism and it can do the same for any congregation. Within a couple of years a young man, Chris Donovan, who the elders had asked to take a leadership role in evangelism and mission accepted the opportunity to visit both the orphanage and Bible school operated by LAM in Panama, prior to going on to the mission in San Agustin, Usulután, El Salvador. That year a total of 11 from Seven Hills participated in the mission. The fire was lit once more and when Chris returned to Virginia, his skills along with those of others generated many great evangelistic efforts for the Lord’s church which continue to bear fruit in evangelistic effort.

Among them is the neighborhood evangelism program which the following year resulted in 11 baptisms and involved around 10 members.

Lighting the Fire, a 2 year program of encouraging and mentoring preachers who have become discouraged in their work was set in motion. The goal of this good and successful program is to involve not only the mature mentoring preacher, but to allow the participant to work under the oversight of an eldership and be encouraged by every loving member. The young preacher, Donnie Vick has taught and converted several souls during his tenure in the program.

An ambitious plan known as “Brighter Lights” was also initiated. In view of our increased evangelistic work, we wanted to encourage other congregations in the area to begin the same aggressive program that had been developed. After a period of study and training for several weeks, a team of 10 members go to the nearby congregation and work a full day with the team that has been formed in the neighboring congregation. Numerous conversions have been the result and “Brighter Lights” will continue to bring souls to Christ.

For the last two years Seven Hills has cooperated with South Green Street in Glasgow, KY. , establishing an

annual mission to Honduras with the help of LAM, where more than 70 souls have been baptized into Christ. The mission continues this year in Danli, Honduras.

Foreign benevolence has increased as our budget has increased for Casa Hogar in Panama, an orphanage that serves as home for a number of Panamanian children. All of our bible school classes have also become involved as a container is provided in each classroom for the children to participate and learn the grace of giving from a practical standpoint.

And finally, with the financial support and assistance of the brethren at Redland church in Valdosta, GA., a new congregation has been established in Danli, Honduras. The elders at Seven Hills have accepted advisory oversight of the Los Arcos congregation and are working closely with the congregation in promoting the goal of spiritual and numerical growth that will help this congregation to become the first fully organized congregation in Honduras.

It is therefore obvious that our evangelistic involvement with LAM has helped enthusiasm for evangelism to increase, it has promoted benevolence locally and in Honduras, and the enthusiasm for the evangelism effort has been reflected in increased giving within the congregation well above the budget requirements as well as various special contributions by interested members for specific needs abroad. Overall the congregation has experienced great spiritual growth and a more fervent love for the Lord in taking the gospel to the world.

We thank the Forrest Park church of Christ and the Latin American Missions for the impact that they have had on our congregation and we encourage others to the same end.

As the army of the Lord, let us go forth, for “God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Tim. 1:7-8).

# The Eyes of a Child

BY  
Dave Huffman



The eyes of our children tell us a story if we look and try to understand them. The language that is used goes beyond the spoken language of English, Spanish or any other language, but no less understandable. Many of the children that come to the Children's Home have eyes that speak of sadness, confusion, hopelessness, being unwanted, loss of self-worth and much much more. In many ways they are broken; maybe not physically, but mentally and psychologically and in need of an environment of healing. Have you ever thought of the comfort of Jesus' Hands when the children were brought to Him in Matthew 19:13-15? There must have been some relief in those hands, the hands of the creator. If there wasn't, then why bring the children? Jesus said do not refuse those children who sought that comfort, so how can we withhold that from children today?

The Children's Home in Panama City, Panama has house parents and staff that are faithful Christians who strive to teach and show the love of God and Christ in everything they do. They have taught the children that a home can be, and should be, a place of safety and not a place to fear. It should be a

place where they can learn that trust in adults and others is possible. As a result of that trust, they are willing to obey God's word when we teach them the Gospel. Since the first of the year, three of our children have obeyed the Gospel and now are our brothers and sisters in Christ. In John 5:6 Jesus asked the man at the pool of Bethesda if he wanted to be made well. These three have answered that question by obeying the Gospel and wanting to be made whole in Christ.

Would you help us to continue to provide the proper environment where our children can be safe and learn about the love of God? We can, with God's help and yours, put joy and happiness back into those eyes that first came to us broken. You can help these children to become leaders in the Lord's church.

Would you be willing to miss one meal per month and send \$27 to help these children who are fellow Christians? That amounts to \$1 per child per month. Proverbs 21:13 says, Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.



*(Continued from page 1)*

We had another “standing room only” crowd who braved the heat of the day as we conducted the graduation program.

This past September 14, 2014 marked the beginning of our 50th year as a continual school for training men to preach the gospel. We have graduates in Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Argentina.

These men with their families will now begin a life time of preaching the Gospel in their own language and their own culture.

## **50th Year Anniversary Bible School of the Americas Graduating Class**



# Julio Cruz: A Pioneer for the Gospel in Panama

by Jack Farber



Julio and his son Julio David

Julio Cruz was a dear friend and brother in the Lord who departed this world February 25 to be with the Lord.

I first met Julio shortly after I became a youth minister in Little Rock, AR in 1973. Little did I know that this small man (in physical stature)



would be a giant for the cause of Christ in his native country in Panama.

I don't know if he ever knew his parents. He was raised by a woman not his physical mother.

While recovering from lung surgery in a Colon, Panama hospital he met Burl Brockman, a missionary from Texas, who taught and baptized him in the late '50's or early '60's.

Julio became a regular at the home of Bill and Poca Rogers, who were working with the Balboa congregation at that time. Poca told me that she and her family shared many meals with Julio in those early years.

Bill began to work with Julio and a couple of other young single men to train them to preach the gospel in their native language.

In 1962, the Balboa congregation sent Julio and



another young man to Lubbock, TX to a newly formed school for Latin men called the Latin America Preacher School. At the end of 2 years, he graduated and returned to Panama.

He started to work at Chilbre which is in the middle of Panama next to the Canal. He and his wife Ida, raised 3 children, Agatha, Loida, and Julio David.

In 1965, the Panamerican Bible School (PABS), a new preacher training school began and he was asked by the U.S. missionaries to be one of the teachers. Julio would go and teach in that school (now called The Bible School of the Americas) until his health would no longer permit it.

In 1983 I was asked by Bob Bryson, and the elders of Forrest Park in Valdosta, GA to go to



Panama and work as the Co-Director under Julio who had just become the new director. His family and mine became close friends during the 3 years we lived in Panama.

I recall just before we left for Panama, a visit Julio made to the States. He came to visit us in Arizona where we lived at the time to help me raise funds to move to Panama. He got to know my wife and two sons at that time.

Julio and I worked together on many campaigns through the years. In 1977, Julio was my translator in the first campaign I ever participated. The first bible study was with a lady in Bocas Island where we had just began 10 days of work. We went to her home and studied the bible with Martina, her sister, her brother and her mother. That day all four were baptized into Christ. Martina raised a family from which came several preachers. Martina is still faithful to this very day.

Many souls were taught by Julio that will someday leave this world just as he did.

I never saw him angry, but I did see a tenacious and unwavering servant of God committed to His holy word.

Julio Cruz was a great influence in my life as well as my family and many other people who had the pleasure of knowing him. He will be missed on this earth, but he has gone to his reward as Paul put it, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing"* (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

There were more than 300 who attended the memorial services. Truly, Julio was a pioneer in the country of Panama. He was one of the first native Panamanian men to be trained as a preacher; he began to preach at one of the first congregations established for Panamanians, Chilbre; He was the FIRST Panamanian teacher in the preacher training school. Literally thousands of people in Panama, and other Latin American countries were touched by this gentle spiritual giant.



## PERSONAL SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS

Mission work will change your life, your thinking, and change you spiritually. Short Term Mission Trips connect you with fellow Christians that you would have never met. You will have an opportunity to be in the company of the greatest people on earth who put the ALL of themselves into serving others, and to TELL THE STORY OF JESUS. My first mission trip was with Jack Farber of Latin American Missions, shortly after the 911 tragedy in 2001. I did a personal inventory and since that time have gone at every opportunity. I have been blessed to do mission work in Peru, Panama, India, Africa, and Greece. It has broadened my view of, *“go ye into all the world”*, and put my faith on the line when I sing, *“here am I send me”*. If you have never been outside of the United States, you have no idea how blessed you are to be an American. It will touch you to the core of your being and give you a sense of gratitude that I can't put into words. My fellow brothers and sisters.....*“the harvest is ripe and the laborers are few”*.

Johnnie LeMaster, Elder  
Paintsville church of Christ

go

and he  
said to  
them:

into all the  
world and  
proclaim the  
gospel to the  
whole creation.  
Mark 16:15

Scale 1:12,500,000

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100 200 300 Miles

boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

# Why did you come to the Bible School of the Americas?

## Students respond:

I'm here first of all to serve God in the best way, follow always His commandments and please Him in all, acting in the way that He ask us; and learn to be a better helpmate for my husband in the Lord.  
~ Gabriela Salinas (Honduras)

To prepare me well in the extensive knowledge of the Scriptures... to know better the nature of our Lord and God, know better the love of Jesus and the sensitive work of the Holy Spirit, whose knowledge helping me to be better each day like a person, like a Christian and like a brother. And thus achieve an exquisite use of my gifts, for the benefit of the church needed, represented in each one of my lovely brethren  
~ Alexander Monroy (Colombia)

To train to become a better worker; strengthen my knowledge and my conviction foundations. To prepare myself to collaborate more in the congregation in my country.  
~ Josue Bonilla (El Salvador)

The purpose of studying the bible is to learn and to have knowledge of the word of God, and then work with the congregation or looking for souls for Christ and start new congregations for the Lord.  
~ Javier Serrano (Panamá)

To learn more about God  
To be useful to God  
To support my congregation  
To teach about God  
To use goodly the word of God  
~ Jehisson De la cruz Altamirano (Perú)

To prepare myself in teaching and preaching of the Lord's word and how can I be a leader for the Lord's work.  
~ Anthony Barboza (Costa Rica)

# Honors & Memorials:

January 2015 ~ March 2015

## *In Honor of ...*

### **Pat & Elizabeth Waggoner**

M/M Roger Myers

### **Phil Waggoner**

M/M Jimmy Williams

## *In Memory of ...*

### **Margaret Berrian**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Bob & Robbie Bryson**

June Gannaway

### **Kim Copeland**

M/M Paul Swanson

M/M Donnie Wisenbaker

### **Morris Copeland**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Joseph Edwards, Sr**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Lenora Husband**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Bessie Johnson**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Maxine Lay**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Oneida McKinnon**

M/M Bill Ward

### **Jack Meredith**

Ms. Rosie Howton

### **Rosa Lee Petterson**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Annie Bell Pierce**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Bertha Pittman**

M/M Jack Hutchinson

M/M Paul Swanson

M/M Donnie Wisenbaker

### **James C. Reed**

Ms. Carolyn Reed

### **Barclay Riley**

Crittenden Church of Christ

### **Buddy & Annie Lee Rewis**

M/M Larry McCallum

### **Rosa Lee Smith**

M/M Paul Swanson

### **Daniel Waggoner**

M/M Roger Myers

### **Don Williams**

M/M Roger Myers

### **Ronnie Wisenbaker**

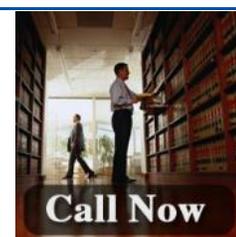
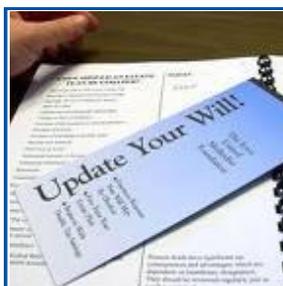
M/M Donnie Wisenbaker

### **Ronnie Wisenbaker**

M/M Paul Swanson

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# *Servants in Need*

## **Panamá**

José Blanford (Bugaba) ~ \$185  
José Chavarría (Boquete) ~ \$200  
Alicio Ellington  
(San Felix & Las Lomas) ~ \$375  
Herminio González (Penonome) ~ \$250  
Reinaldo Midi (Changuinola) ~ \$400  
Atilio Pérez (San Blas) ~ \$250  
Alonso Racine (Arraijan) ~ \$325  
Eugenio Racine (Bella Vista) ~ \$310  
Elio Quiroz (Dolega & Gualaca) ~ \$150

## **Various Countries**

Daniel Chavez (Buenos Aires, **Costa Rica**) ~ \$300  
Jiro Rodríguez (El Crucero, **Nicaragua**) ~ \$ 35  
Víctor Bonilla (Alta Vista & Perulapan, **El Salvador**) ~ \$200  
Alberto Calderón (Monte Carlo, **Perú**) ~ \$50  
Rubén Chacón (Ica, **Perú**) ~ \$200  
Wilson Viloría (Lota, **Chile**) ~ \$100  
Fernando Ospina (Medellín, **Colombia**) ~ \$205

## **Honduras**

Javier Arriaga (El Tamarindo) ~ \$120  
Pedro Celestino (Ojo de Agua) ~ \$155  
Enrique Chavarría (Chichicaste) ~ \$50  
Carlos Arturo Díaz (Villanueva & San Pedro Sula) ~ \$250  
Olvan Díaz (Villanueva & San Pedro Sula) ~ \$410  
Javier Flores (Las Animas & El Pataste) ~ \$135  
Armando Galeano (Plaza & Zambrano) ~ \$252.50  
Ever Gallo, Jr (Monterrey) ~ \$500  
German Gamez (Church Bldng Rent—Marcala) ~ \$200  
Carlos Hernández, Sr. (La Esperanza & El Cerrón) ~ \$270  
José Elías Roque (San Miguel) ~ \$160  
Omar Rosales (Monjaras) ~ \$365

## **Bible School of the Americas**

Francisco González ~ \$760  
Esteban Rodríguez ~ \$225  
Agenor Rudas ~ \$667.50

How then will they call on him  
*in whom they have not believed?*

And how are they to believe in him  
*Of whom they have not heard?*

And how are they to hear  
*Without a preacher?*

And how are they to preach  
*Except they be sent?*

As it is written,

*"How beautiful are the feet of them that  
preach the gospel of peace"*

**ELDERS**

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Robert McLeod, Barry Robinson, Donnie Swilley

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