

# LAM

LATIN  
AMERICAN  
MISSIONS  
NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2018



## CHILDREN'S HOME OF THE AMERICAS

TEACHING THE CHILDREN TO SUCCEED  
NEW PLAYGROUND DEDICATION  
LADIES OF LAM: CASA HOGAR STORIES  
SPRING BREAK WORKERS FROM FHU  
A BOY ON A SOCCER FIELD



LAM.FORRESTPARK.ORG

# No More Worries

Westley Hazel, Minister @ Forrest Park Church of Christ

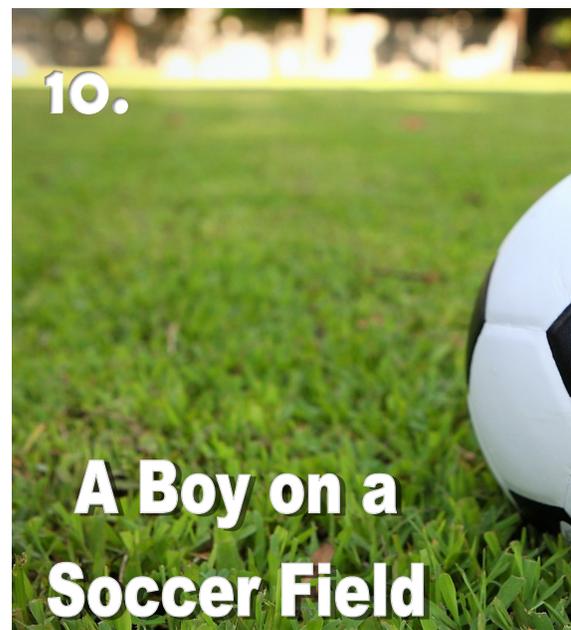
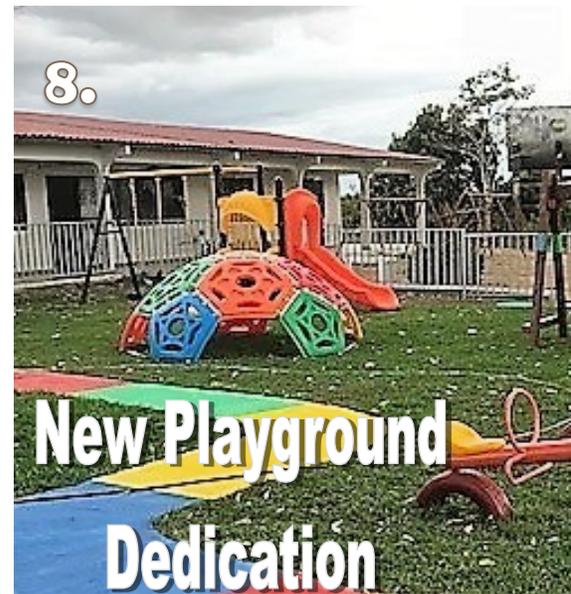
**G**rowing up I did not have much to worry about. I never worried about having a safe or comfortable place to sleep. My dad always took care of that. I never worried about where dinner was going to come from. Mom would “magically” have it on the table. I never worried about what was most important in life. My parents always made it clear to me in word and deed that God comes first, and the Bible is right. I was blessed to grow up with a godly dad and mom who loved me. If you also had that blessing, you should thank God for His blessing.

**T**he unfortunate reality is that many children do not have a dad and mom to provide them a place to sleep, eat, and know the Lord. They are helpless. We may not know their names, but they exist all around us at this very moment. The question becomes, do we care enough to do anything about it? As Christians it is our responsibility and privilege to help those who are helpless. God has not blessed us just so that we would be blessed but so that we might be a blessing to others in His name. In James 1:27 we read that a portion of pure and undefiled religion is to “visit orphans and widows in their trouble.”

**T**hat is the driving purpose behind the Children’s Home of the Americas in Panama City, Panama. If you are not involved in a work like this, you need to get involved. By being involved physically or financially you are making sure that a child has a comfortable place to sleep. You are making sure that a child does not have to worry about what they will eat for dinner. You are making sure that a child is taught about the most important thing in life, Jesus Christ. You are taking away all the worries that children should not have. Thank you for joining us in this effort through Christ.



Westley taught *Spiritual Formation* to the entire faculty of the Bible School of the Americas in January 2018.



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## LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONS

### FORREST PARK ELDERS:

Doug Daugherty, Don Garner, Robert McLeod,  
Barry Robinson, Donnie Swilley

### 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 brother, you did it to me."* Matthew 25:36-40

### HOW WE SERVE:

Evangelistic campaigns, Mobile medical missions, Benevolence, Native preacher training and support, Print ministry, Construction, Disaster relief

### WHERE WE SERVE:

Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Perú, Panamá

### CONTACT US:

Mission Line: (229) 242-1069  
Fax: (229) 245-1469  
Email: LAM@ForrestPark.org  
Website: LAM.ForrestPark.org

### STAFF:

**Spencer Broome**  
Cell: (229) 412-0745  
Office Ext. 212

**Kirk Brothers**  
Cell: (731) 435-0026  
Office Ext. 205

**Lionel Cortez**  
229-242-1069  
Office Ext. 205

**Jack Farber**  
Cell: (229) 292-4708  
Office Ext. 204

**John Farber**  
Cell: (904) 955-8680  
Office Ext. 205

**Charles Renfro**  
Cell: (229) 247-2994  
Office Ext. 209

**Phil Waggoner**  
Cell: (615) 218-8649  
Office Ext. 205



# Nine New Students Begin Studies

Simeon Vasquez, Instructor @ the Bible School of the Americas



Nine Freshmen students were inducted into the Bible School of the Americas during the week of February 5, 2018. Five students returned to complete the two year Bible Study Program. The students are from Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, and Panama. Carlos Morales began with a devotional, and Elio directed the songs. I served as emcee for the program. Then, Deputy Director Agenor Rudas welcomed everyone. Also, Jack Farber, Director of the Bible School gave a presentation concerning the instruction and administrative staff.

Please pray for this great project that every year is dedicated to fulfilling what was said by the inspired Apostle Paul in II Timothy 2:2, *"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."* First-year students are preparing to do the required course work. The students come with a love of God's Word and a deep yearning to learn more. The Psalmist wrote in ancient days,

*"Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."* -Psalm 119:97

On Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, the first year students finished the first classes of Spanish and Research Techniques. The second year classes were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles. The classes include instruction, essays, word studies, and exams. Memory work and quizzes are a daily task. It has been a great experience with the entire student body.

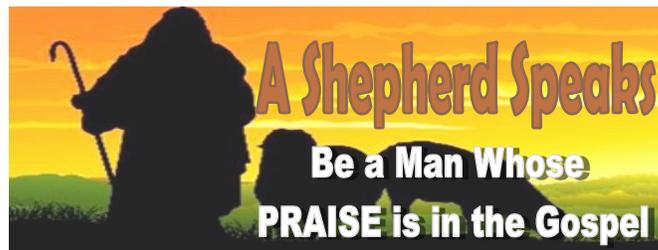
**We thank God for this Bible School which allows us to serve Him and His Church. The Glory and the Honor is ALL for our God!**



Administrative Staff, Bible Instructors, and Students



Phil Waggoner  
LAM  
Missionary



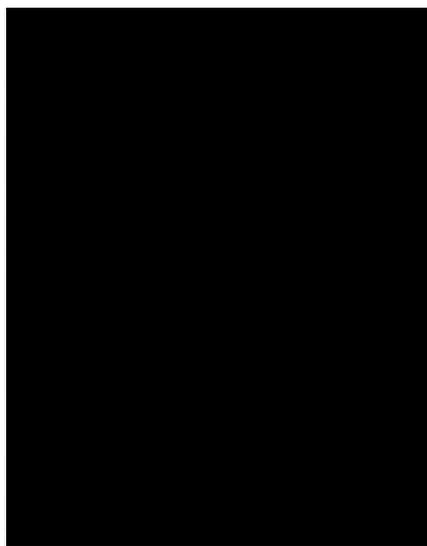
Don Garner, Elder, Forrest Park Church of Christ

The Children's Home of the Americas located in Panama is home to some of the most precious children you will ever meet. On Friday, December 1, 2018, I had the blessing of taking all of them Christmas Shopping. The children look forward to it all year. **Thanks to the generosity and love of so many of you, we were able to let these precious children pick out all sorts of clothes, toys, and games.** I wish YOU could have been there with me to see the smiles on their faces and the joy and excitement this day brings! I am thankful I got to help with this activity and hear "*Thank You*" directly from the children.

Thank You to Sarah Dutton for doing so much of the planning and organization of this event! Thanks also Agenor Rudas, Francisco Gonzalez, Spen Broome, Jose Rodriguez, Robert McLeod, Martin Marquez, Carlos Earlington, Elio Quiroz, Rudis Ramirez, Victor Abrego, and many others for helping this day go smoothly! Special thanks to the Boiling Springs Church of Christ in Boiling Springs, SC, the Forrest Park Church of Christ in Valdosta, GA, and many other congregations and individuals who made this happen!

If you are currently helping support the Children's Home, *Thank You!* You are making a difference and YOU helped make this possible!

Please get in touch with me if you want to help with our Children's Home going forward! Please pray for me and all these precious Children!

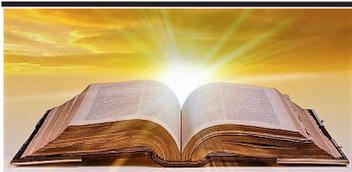


The LAM Newsletters often highlight the various **Gospel Opportunities** in doing the Lord's work in Latin America. We inform you about the Bible School of the Americas, Evangelistic campaigns, the Children's Home, and congregations which afford opportunities to partner in reaching the lost. Sometimes, individuals or congregations are recognized as being partners in this great fellowship. As I study the Pauline epistles, I recognize some of the great characteristics that motivated people to be energized in doing the Lord's work.

In Philippians 2, after appealing to the brethren to have a conduct which was worthy of the Gospel (1:27), the Apostle Paul appeals to every Christian to understand the comfort, the fellowship, the mercy, and the affection we enjoy in God. **God is good and gracious; and when we grow in our understanding of the depth of His grace, it allows us to grow in the grace of giving our time, talent, and money to others.** Because of His grace, we count others as being more significant than ourselves (2:3); and as this attitude permeates our hearts, we become greater bondservants and imitate Jesus.

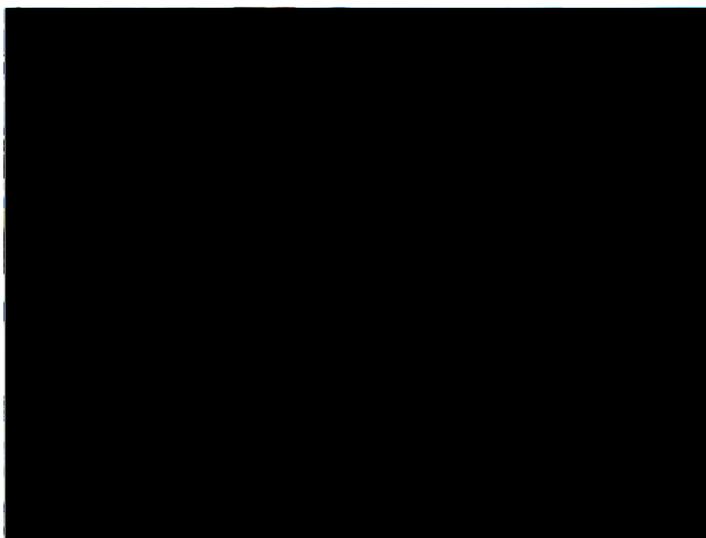
We can be like **Paul** who rejoiced and was ready to be poured out as an offering on the sacrifice and service of his faith (Phil. 2:17). Paul lived a God-centered, Christ-centered, Gospel-centered, and Church-centered life. We can be like **Timothy** who was genuinely concerned for the Philippian brethren's welfare and keeping the gospel of Jesus Christ (2:19-21). We can be like **Epaphroditus** who ministered to the needs of Paul who was in prison, even to the point of sickness and near death. He risked his own life in order to complete his service to Christ (2:25-30). May we be motivated by these heroes of faith to become a greater bondservant in His Kingdom.

As you read about **Gospel Opportunities** found in the Lord's work with LAM, may you be motivated to give of your time, talent, and money to carry the Gospel to the lost souls in Latin American countries. You may never be recognized personally in the LAM Newsletter, but God knows who you are and the difference you are making in His Kingdom. May it be said about us as the man whose name we do not know in 2 Corinthians 8:18, "the brother whose PRAISE is in the Gospel throughout all churches."



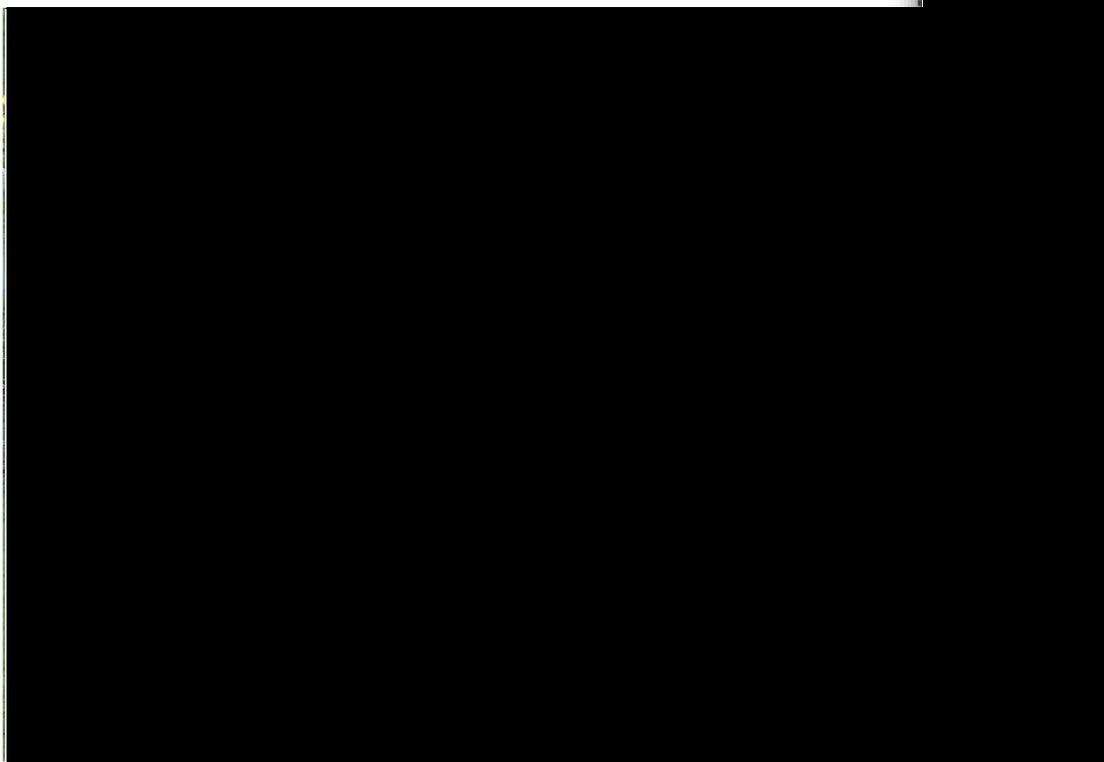
# Teaching the Children

Geraldine Llovera, Tutor at the Children's Home of the Americas



As a tutor in the study room at the Children's Home, I have the responsibility to educate and help in the development of the intellectual, moral and emotional capacities of the children to whom I have the satisfaction of imparting my knowledge. It's been a very gratifying experience where both the children and myself have had the possibility of nourishing ourselves in knowledge. Different teaching methods, such as audio-visual, singing, using the computer, reading, writing, playing games, as well as others have produced excellent results. We continue working with dedication to improve the children's conduct, concentration, level of responsibility and attitude.

Concerning the work environment, it is very gratifying to work with people who are professional team players, dedicated and focused on the importance of their work. In spite of the factors that influence the children's ability to learn, such as psychological and emotional conditions that the children who live in the Home face, I can say that they find refuge, love, and affection and develop a great level of trust with those of us around them and toward God.



**"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."**

*- Lady Bird Johnson*

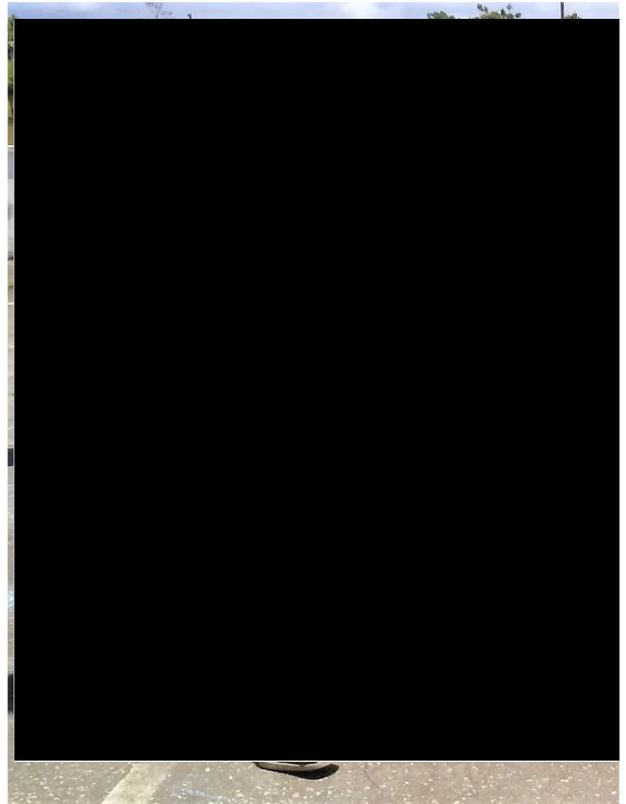
# To Succeed Here and Beyond

Gabriela Salinas, Tutor at the Children's Home of the Americas



My experience during these four years collaborating in the Children's Home has been wonderful and rewarding. My work in the study room is to reinforce the children and young people in academic studies. Also, I teach those who do not go to school (like home schooling). I have to admit that I have learned incredible things from these children, discovering in them the purest and most genuine love given to all those around them. I see in them the efforts that overcome any kind of difficulty.

Every time I come to the study room they run to hug me and give me their best smile. Joshua always shows that even with health problems. You always have to smile and be as positive as possible. With a lot of patience and love, Juan, has been able to overcome limitations that seemed impossible. Eliseo inspires admiration when he manifests as a priority his desire to serve God and the Church in each dream and personal goal. These are some of the many lessons that these children and young people demonstrate each day.



I give thanks, first to God, then to Latin American Missions and each congregation that supports this wonderful work and gives me the opportunity to be a part of it. My life

here on the campus of the Bible School and Children's Home is such a pleasant experience with those who are now my family.

# NEW PLAYGROUNDS

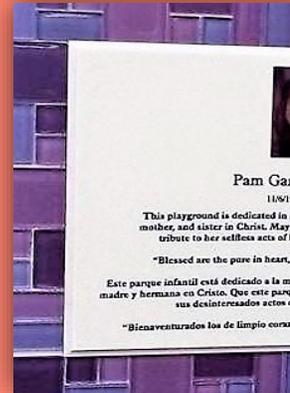
Lauren Boston - Pensacola, Florida

*"Be someone's sunshine"*



When my sisters and I were little my mom would sing to us, "You Are My Sunshine." Back then the sound of her beautiful voice gave us comfort, and today the words of the song give us meaning. Mom went through her life striving to make others happy. Although she had many health difficulties in her 51 years of life, she never let that hold her back and always put others first. As a devoted wife, loving daughter, Godly Mother, church secretary, and Christian friend, Mom was everything to everyone.

Mom had a passion for children. Most could see this in the way she, alongside my dad, raised us three girls. For those that knew her closely, however, they could see her passion during her time spent in Nicaragua. Mom attended mission trips of the Church of Christ in Esteli. She helped out with Medical Missions, Vacation Bible School, and door knocking. Mom never came back home from these trips the same; a piece of her heart was always left there. I can remember my first mission trip with her, which was also her first time there. We were both amazed at how happy the people were with what little they had. I remember a three year old boy with holes in his shoes coming into VBS each day with a huge smile on his face. Mom and I went to a market a couple days later, and she bought him a new pair of shoes. She gave them to his mother, and tears just filled her eyes. But, mom didn't stop there. On that same trip, she left the clothing contents of her entire suitcase for the women in



# of the Americas

# AND DEDICATION

*when their skies are gray."*



the church. Her heart was so big.

**A**s mom's health was rapidly declining, she took it upon herself to write us a letter. This letter held her hopes and dreams for each of us along with a big request of her own. Mom asked that should something happen to her that we not fill a church with flowers, but rather we raise money for a cause near and dear

to her heart. She wanted to continue to spread joy to children by building a playground. The outpouring of support from family, friends, and Latin American Missions was overwhelming.

**I**n early April of this year, my dad, my two sisters, and I visited the Children's Home of the Americas in Panama, a Christian home devoted to serving the needs of orphaned, neglected, and/or abused children. There we stepped foot inside the playground that our mom envisioned over two and a half years ago. We were able to see the pure joy on those children's faces whose skies might otherwise be gray. In memory of ...

***Pam Garner Ledford***

***11/6/1963 – 8/7/2015***

***"Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God." -Matthew 5:8***

*Editor's Note: Lauren grew up attending the Lakeside Church of Christ in Orange Park, FL where her mother was the church secretary and her father and grandfather were elders. She is married to Cody Boston, preacher for Scenic Hills Church of Christ in Pensacola, Florida.*





# A Boy on a Soccer Field

Phil Waggoner, LAM Missionary

Since December of 2017 I have been out of the United States. Most of that time I have spent in Panama where the Children's Home of the Americas is located. Full-time house parents love and raise many children as their own. Thanks to many of you, we are able to clothe them and get them into good schools. Several nights a week I conduct family devotionals there where we spend time reading and studying the Bible together, praying together, and singing songs of praise together in worship to God. On Sundays and Wednesdays, our kids gather with the local church (50 yards from the Home), where they can be in Bible classes, worship God, and be part of God's family.

One day a few weeks ago, I spent all day in one of the Bible classes with our preacher students. To get to my apartment from the classrooms, you have to walk across the big soccer field in the center of campus. As I walked I was thinking, "OK, I have time to get a decent nap before supper, devotional, or play time with the children." I noticed a boy all alone on the field kicking balls into the net. I recognized him as one of the young boys from our Children's Home. He had two soccer balls. He would line them up precisely in the location he wanted them, making sure he worked on all the angles that he might need to kick from in a game. He plays in games whenever he has opportunity. He never seems to mind that he is almost always the youngest player on the field and always the smallest. He is an incredible athlete. He is unbelievably quick and fast, and never seems to tire or run out of energy.

Watching this as I walked across the field and thinking about my potential nap, I couldn't help but smile. I have seen this type of love for sports before. It took me back many years to when my brother Daniel was alive. All he wanted to do, all day, every day, was be outside playing sports. Anything with a ball. He would play, even if he was the only one outside, until someone of authority told him to come inside. As I saw this

young man kicking soccer balls all by himself, my mind went back to my childhood. It seemed like every day of my life, my brother would push me to play something with him. Usually, I did, but sometimes I didn't feel like it. My brother had a mom and dad who were happy to play with him, but not this boy on a soccer field.

I realized I didn't need that nap after all. There was no one else around to play. As I drew closer, I asked him in Spanish, "Hey, you want me to play goalie for you?" He looked at me, with that little sweet, mischievous smile of his and just shrugged his shoulders at me. It was like he was saying "I would love for you to, but I'm not getting my hopes up, just in case you say you have to go do something else." I said, "Hang on, let me change my clothes, and I'll be right back."

I returned to the field in five minutes. This was the first time in years, that I had played goalie, but it was some of the best soccer I have ever played. With the competitive drive he has, he wanted me to try and stop him. It was so much fun. He enjoyed seeing me give him my best effort, and of course he enjoyed any time he got one by me and into the net. I would congratulate him when he made a shot. One of our preacher student's sons, a young man about 14 years old who is also a good goal-scorer, came and joined us. One of them would take a shot. I would catch it, block it, or it might go over or around the goal. Then, the other one would take his shot when I was set and ready. Soon, more of the students joined us and offered their commentary. I hope my little buddy had as much fun that afternoon as I did.

He may not know his biological father, but he knows he has a Father in Heaven who loves him, house parents that are raising him to honor and obey authority, and others helping him learn and grow. Also, he knows there's a big, bald-headed white guy who loves to play ball with him. I hope that in twenty-five years from now, his memories from the Children's Home campus are as fond as mine. ***Never miss an opportunity to love a child.***

## Spring Break Workers from Freed-Hardeman



During Spring Break Week, Kirk Brothers (an FHU instructor) taught a short course on Revelation. Each morning we began with a thirty minute devotional before instruction.



Kirk also brought a group of workers to install a roof over a parking area and put screens in the Administrative Staff's offices for better security. The construction jobs were led by Joseph Markham. Also, a staff of workers painted parts of the Children's Home infrastructure. The workers that come from Freed-Hardeman make a difference in beautifying our campus! They all did excellent work!



## Annual Report on Chiguayante, Chile

The year 2017 was full of challenges for God's Glory. Our brethren had to be encouraged to focus on God, so we could do His work here. Thanks to God, we have a good group of 30 members determined to work with all their hearts in 2018. We plan to start a new congregation of the church of Christ half an hour from the current congregation thanks to the great work that is being done in the preaching of the gospel. The place is named Hualqui in Concepcion.



People are responding to God due to the preaching, and we will start to hold meetings on Sunday afternoon to encourage people of this town to know and want to be part of the Church.



We have already begun with a baptism in this town and trust in God that many more will be baptized for the glory of God. We ask for your prayers so that God allows us to continue with this challenge for 2018. It is not easy, but out of love for these people and the work of God, we want to sacrifice ourselves a little more.

We have a group of men who monthly have ministerial training with Brother Luis Cepeda, Preacher of the Chillan Congregation where I served a couple of years ago. Our brother has committed himself to train workers for the work of God. Thanks to God for those who are persevering.



# Casa Hogar Stories

Tara, Lewisburg, TN

*Memories of a young lady  
serving God on mission trips*

Part of growing up at Northside church of Christ in Harrison, Arkansas was watching my parents' best friends, David and Wanda Kernodle, showing their slides from their yearly mission trips with Latin American Missions. When I was about eight, I told my mom I wanted to go with David and Wanda on a trip. Wanda said that I was too young and needed to wait. When I was fourteen, we went on Larry Calendine's 1998 trip to Las Animas, Honduras. That trip changed my life. I love to talk, and I got so frustrated with not being able to talk to people and having to use a translator. I decided to learn Spanish so I could talk to the people myself. That was exactly 20 years, 35 mission trips, and six countries ago. Now, I am a Spanish teacher in Lewisburg, TN.

I went on my first mission trip to Panama in 2000. We island hopped with a medical clinic in the San Blas Islands. At the end of that trip I went to the Children's Home of the Americas for the first time. I absolutely fell in love with the kids! The next year, I talked to Jack Farber about volunteering in the Children's Home for several weeks that summer to help my Spanish. So, in June 2001, at age 17, I flew to Panama and stayed in the Children's Home for two weeks. I learned a lot about the world that summer and the next nine summers, as well. I learned frustration about situations I was powerless to change. I learned what it felt like to comfort the kids left behind when one of their roommates was taken back to the person that abused them. I learned that the cute little boy in your lap had everything he valued in his backpack, just in case the social worker decided he had to return to his bad home situation. I learned that there are some truly awful people in the world.

That first summer, I met three beautiful sisters I don't think I'll ever forget. They were brought to the Children's Home and looked like they were in shock. Maribi was the oldest at about nine years old; Carla was about five; and Laura was eight months old. A few nights after they came, I was up late talking to Esperanza (the house mom) and playing with the baby when I noticed she had what looked like faint road maps all over her chubby little legs. I'd never seen anything like it, so I asked Esperanza what it was. She told me in Spanish, "An Exacto knife!" Over the course of the summer, I learned that the cause of the gash healing on Carla's head was from where her mother's boyfriend had gotten angry and threw her



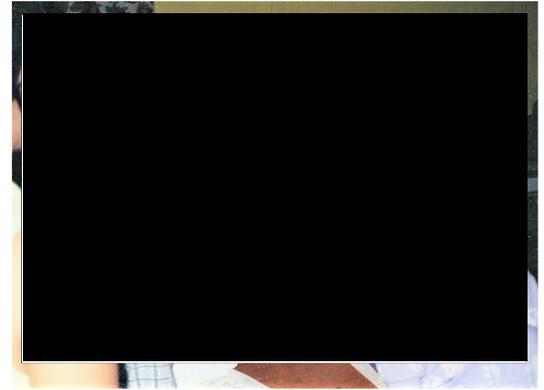
headfirst into the wall. He'd been molesting Maribi, and when someone finally called the police, they brought them straight to the Children's Home because of its reputation in that area.

Casa Hogar has a good reputation because the kids are well-fed, well-cared for, and well-loved. My grandmother and I made it our mission every summer to make sure those kids got to have some of the experiences we take for granted and that they knew they were loved. We hugged them when they got hurt and helped take care of them when they got sick. We played in the pouring rain and read books with them. We taught them the art of roasting marshmallows over a fire.

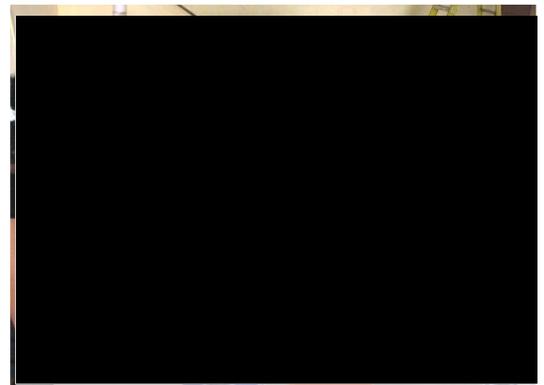
One of the Bible Classes at Northside started taking up donations to send with us to "do something for the kids" every summer, and we used that money to buy pizza for dinner one night because the kids had never been able to eat all the pizza they wanted. There was one little boy named Kevin that ate NINE full sized pieces, and then he walked around grinning and poking his stomach out to show how full he was. We had some money left over from the pizza, so we did a banana split night, where the kids got to eat all the ice cream and bananas that they wanted. Pizza Night and Banana Split Night were such hits that both became annual events when we were there.

I taught the kids how to add and subtract, count to ten, and how to blow bubbles. I helped the older kids with their English homework and laughed with them when I messed up speaking Spanish. They loved to correct me! We washed dishes, helped cook and serve meals, and helped do laundry. We taught the kids how to roast marshmallows and play UNO. They taught us how to pick good avocados off the trees and why you don't eat mangos off the ground. (Mangos that have been on the ground have worms just under the skin.)

I haven't been to the Children's Home in several years now. Many of "our kids" have grown up and are now out on their own with their own families, and that makes me happy for them. Some are now active members in the Church, and I think that is one of the biggest rewards of our work down there. Many were in the Children's Home because of abuse or neglect, and others were there because their parents couldn't afford to take care of them. Regardless of the situation, the kids knew they were safe and loved by all of us and by God. And, they overcame their situation. I still keep in touch with several of them on Facebook, and I love getting to see what they're up to. The experiences we shared helped shape me into the person I am today.



## *Precious Memories*



# Memorials

## January-March 2018

### About HONORS & MEMORIALS

You may "HONOR" a special person or group of people by making a donation of any amount to LAM. You may make a "MEMORIAL" donation to LAM in memory of a loved one who is deceased. Please use the printed form on the back page of this newsletter when sending your donation to the LAM office.

### In Memory of...

#### Dave Huffman

M/M Philip Randolph  
Mercer CoC, Harrodsburg, KY

#### Juan Iturralde

M/M Bill Ward  
Lawanna Batten  
M/M Paul Swanson

#### Coretta Johnson

Lawanna Batten  
M/M Paul Swanson

#### Mary Francis Rice

M/M Paul Swanson

#### Myra Carter

M/M Paul Swanson  
M/M Bill Ward  
Lawanna Batten  
Ted Okolichany

#### Betty Paulk

M/M Paul Swanson

#### James "Bro" White

M/M Paul Swanson

#### Nettie Reeves

M/M Paul Swanson

#### Betty Pittman

M/M Paul Swanson

#### Glenn O'Neal

M/M Paul Swanson

#### Carnish Ward

M/M Paul Swanson

### In Honor of...

#### Forrest Park Elders

Rosemary LaConte

URGENT!

## Need in the Mission Field

URGENT!

Letter received in LAM Office from Elio Quirós in Gualaca, Republic of Panama

March 4, 2018

Brothers in the Lord: Through this message I want to convey to you the complicated situation I have been going through for a long time. In the labor that I do as a preacher and evangelist, I totally depend on my vehicle for transportation from the place where I reside to this congregation, as well as traveling within the area I evangelize. This vehicle is also of great importance to transport my family who always supports my ministry and as transportation for brethren who are evangelists who collaborate with me. There are numerous and great benefits that my car provides, but for a long time it has not been working perfectly. It breaks down often, and the repairs put me into debt which complicates things even more. The mechanics tell me it is necessary to overhaul the engine. The transmission also has damage because the shifting only works in three shifts and reverse. The cost for these repairs is \$3,500.

Beloved Brethren, I come to you with the hope in God that my cause will be well received in your hearts. With much faith I present this request to you for support so I may continue to bring Christ's mission to the Church. I ask you for this great favor because I do not have the financial means. I also feel embarrassed to bring my petition to you because you've already done much for my family and the Church here in Gualaca. We are very grateful for your assistance. However, I do not have anybody else to go to.

If you want, Brethren, to unite your efforts and help me repair my old car, I am sure God will multiply you greatly for what you do for me. I will continue to untiringly serve the Lord in His Kingdom.

Sincerely,

*Elio Quirós*

This is a **G**ospel **O**ppportunity to serve the Lord!

# Preach the Word!

**2 Timothy 4:2**

Be ready in season and out of season.

**Convince,**

**Rebuke,**

**Exhort,**

with all  
longsuffering  
and teaching.

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