LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

BSAM GRADUATION - DEC. 7, 2019

BIBLE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

ESCUELA BIBLICA DE LAS AMERICAS

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PREPARING GOSPEL PREACHERS SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS GRADUATION AT BIBLE SCHOOL OF AMERICAS SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH 2020 FUTURE MINISTERS TRAINING CAMP



LatinAmericanMissions.org

Preparing Gospel Preachers

Marty James, Elder Lakeside Church of Christ, Jacksonville, Florida

had the honor of teaching the Old Testament books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy in November 2019 during a weeklong session at the Bible School of the Americas. I grew spiritually closer to God from the detailed study of God's Word, the excellent fellowship with so many dedicated Christian students, and was encouraged by the excellent work being done at the school.

t was little bit scary when Jack Farber asked me to teach these Old Testament books, especially Leviticus. *Has anyone ever voluntarily studied that book?* Yet, Leviticus has so much to teach us about God's desire for His people to live holy lives. I came away from this week with a deeper appreciation for God and His revelation to guide His people.

The students made this week especially uplifting for me. They were wonderful and loving brothers and sisters in Christ who were so welcoming and encouraging to me. I was the only one in the room who did not speak Spanish, but they were patient and encouraging. (Rafael Paguaga did a tremendous job translating my Southern English into proper Spanish). The students exhibited a profound love for and understanding of God's Word. I was extremely impressed with the knowledge they had about, not only these three books, but the overall Bible. They were willing to speak up, share their understanding of the Bible, and debate various topics which was always done with love and respect for others. I completed this week of study confident that the Lord's work is in good hands with this group of ladies and gentlemen.

Finally, I was very impressed with the leadership and instructors at the Bible School of the Americas. The curriculum is very effective and provides the students with the tools that prepare them to be sound and effective preachers and preacher's wives. The entire staff was very friendly and helpful in making this a great experience for me. They were very knowledgeable in God's word, and this showed in how they let Christ shine in everything they did. The campus, facilities, and staff were very accommodating in making this a tremendous learning experience for the students and their families.

I would like to thank everyone who had a part in this week of spiritual growth and Christian fellowship!





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LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONS

FORREST PARK ELDERS' OVERSIGHT: 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." Matt. 25:36-40

HOW WE SERVE: Evangelistic Campaigns, Mobile Medical Missions, Benevolence, Native Preacher Training/Support, Print Ministry, Construction, Disaster Relief

WHERE WE SERVE: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Perú, Panamá

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Nathaly Rudas, Panama

"God is wonderful, and He sets in our path opportunities to serve Him in the best possible way." At the age of fifteen, I was very blessed to be chosen to translate a course given to the ladies at the Bible School of the Americas. The first day, I was very nervous since it was my first experience as a translator. I was worried that the students wouldn't understand me or that I wouldn't understand the teachers. But once I entered that room, Mrs. Connie, full of energy, Mrs. Nancy, always

caring, and Mrs. Jane, with the funniest personality, always explained to me what we would do, They guided me, advised me, and above all trusted that I could do a good job. They really helped me to grow in this work. These ladies who carry out the courses are so full of love. Each one of them, as well as the students with their different characteristics, give a distinctive touch to the course. They make it fun, interactive, and educational.

Time later God blessed me, sending me to a work as spectacular as the medical campaigns and the YES II. Walking in rain, in the sun, cold or hot, tired or drowsy none of that matters when you are looking for souls. In these campaigns you meet a lot people, you make friends, you have a lot of fun and at the same time you work for the Lord. As a translator being in another country, represents many challenges such as slangs, words that you don't know, but there is nothing that cannot be



overcome with God and

much effort. My favorite part is when you arrive at people's homes, and they open their doors with a smile on their face. They sit with you, offer you drinks or food, and listen to the word of God ... moments in which you can almost touch human kindness. I will take those moments with me forever.

You can see each of the brethren on medical campaigns working hard so that people can be taken care of and can receive the word of God in the best possible way. Working with the veterinary was a very fun job. Once in Bocas del Toro, Panama, a sect of the area began to spread that

when we operated on the dogs, we implanted microchips in them. Then, we also put a microchip on the men. Can you believe it? It was crazy, but in spite of that we continued happily with our work because we were serving God.

These campaigns made me realize that in every corner of the world there are people who need the word of God, and as long as I can serve, I'll be honored to do so. I am sure that I'll feel nothing but happiness and satisfaction for doing such a beautiful work for God.







Don Garner, Elder @ Forrest Park Church of Christ

Gospel Opportunities for All

When I merge Romans 1:14-17 and 1 Peter 3:8-9, I understand why the Apostle Paul was the evangelist he was. He had a deep conviction of what the GOSPEL meant to him personally and a strong commitment to preach it to others. Simply stated...as Paul had received the blessings of grace and salvation from God through the GOSPEL, he understood that it was vitally important to have an evangelistic fervor as he preached the GOSPEL to others. Paul made use of every opportunity he had to live the GOOD NEWS while sharing the GOOD NEWS.

 \frown ne of the acronyms used in LAM is the word GO taken from Matthew 28:18-20. The "G" stands for GOSPEL, and the "O" stands for **OPPORTUNITIES.** Our mission is to take the GOSPEL to every country in Latin America as we have opportunity. The foundation of our mission is the training of native preachers in the Word of God so the GOSPEL can be preached, so that congregations established will have men who can mature the local churches to be evangelistic as well. Everything we do should be about this mission statement ... from Future Preacher Training Camps that attract capable, faithful young men committed to this task ... to the operation of the Bible School with faithful, committed faculty who role model Christ and the Apostle Paul ... and to financially support these new GOSPEL preachers until the young congregations can financially support them in meeting the preachers' physical needs.

"I cannot help but wonder...how many Gospel Opportunities have I passed by on my journey to eternity?"

t is vitally important that we understand how each one of these tasks fit into the entire objective to accomplish God's Great Commission. To lose sight of the importance of any one part of the work will end in failure of the entire work. Like the Apostle Paul who had deep convictions and a never-ending commitment of the value of the GOSPEL in his own life, we need people in every part of the Lord's work with the same convictions and commitment. From Elders, staff, students, faculty, preachers, and financial supporters, it is essential that we are convicted and committed to the work.

would like to say, "All is well at LAM!" But, the truth is...we are in short supply of needed funds, and LAM is struggling.

- LAM is desperately in need of monthly support for training preachers at the **Bible School of the Americas** in Panama. Currently, sixteen students and their families (if married) are living on campus to complete the two-year Bible program, but we have a budget deficit of \$5,000 per month of which \$2,000 is salary deficit.
- There are trained **GOSPEL preachers** who have graduated from the Bible School and returned to their native countries to establish/continue local works who have zero financial support. One letter recently received in the LAM office from a young preacher with a wife and small child living in Honduras stated, "Many times we do not have other food and eat only beans." These men need partial support for three to five years after graduation. This allows them to give quality time to teaching the GOSPEL in a new mission area. We are \$4,500 per month short.
- The Future Preachers Training Camp is doing well as Kirk Brothers, President of Heritage University, is more than capable in raising funds for this part of the work.
- The short-term **Evangelistic and Medical Mission Campaigns** are doing fine as elders, churches, parents, grandparents, and others want to send their members and children to experience firsthand evangelism being done.

AM desperately needs YOU who are convicted and committed to the Great Commission to help train and support preachers. Whether you are 15 years old or 85 years young, LAM is a ...

Gospel Opportunity for YOU to GO!

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go ... baptizing ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

Please call Donna Swilley or Rosalina Brathwaite at the LAM Office today and learn how you can support this work and GO with the GOSPEL!

Any amount will help!

BSAM Graduates Need Your Support

Kevin Garner, Deacon @ Forrest Park Church of Christ

Before arriving in Panama at the Children's Home of the Americas, I didn't know what to expect. And, I definitely was not expecting to come home completely impacted forever. The moment that our group entered the campus, I was surprised at how large it was. By observing the well maintained campus, I could see how hard working, motivated, and selfless the people living on-site were. After being introduced and interacting with the families of the childrens' home and the preaching school, I quickly saw the love they have for each other, me, and the Lord's Church.

The people who live and work on the campus embody many attributes of Christ. We need more of those in the Church here at home in the United States. Their meek and joyful emotions were especially manifested during our time together shopping for, not luxuries that we would purchase for Christmas but, necessities for their everyday lives. The excitement on each person's face when they participated in a special gift exchange standing in a big circle together was one of my favorite times on my trip. To see each of them speak encouraging words of love to the one receiving their gift really revealed how deep the people of Panama love one

another. I could tell that the children were being taught, even at such young ages, that we are to put other people's needs before our own. Each of them were an example to me of how I should love people.



John 13:35 says, "By this all men shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another".



ne of the most important things I learned was that each year there is a graduating class from the Bible School of the Americas, and with each graduating class there is an opportunity for us as Christians to help the new graduates get much needed financial support. It would only take skipping a meal eating out two or three times a month or giving up any luxury we take for granted every day. Most of these preachers when starting out can survive a month on the same amount most of us make in only a few days. There is a desperate need, and these men are in Latin America every week spreading the gospel. This is what they have been trained to do. The least we can do is make a sacrifice here so they are not forced to work a secular job at the same time while working hard to grow their congregations. I challenge everyone who reads this article to contact Donna Swilley or Rosalina Brathwaite at Forrest Park Church of Christ and just simply ask, "Who can I help?"

When I returned home, I told my wife, Buffy, I would love to go every year for the graduation and Christmas shopping with the kids. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to see my brothers and sisters in Christ at the campus in Panama.



Where Are They Now?

Agenor Rudas and Loida Cruz, Panamá

was 19 years old ... a time when a young man without Christ does not hold much promise ... only an uncertain horizon. I received an invitation to attend the church of Christ in the community of Chilibre, Panama. That same Sunday I was baptized for the forgiveness of my sins, and from then on I was led in the knowledge of the Scriptures by the preacher, Julio Cruz, who became my teacher.

A year and a half later, Julio Cruz asked me if I would like to receive training at the Bible School. At the beginning I did not warm up to the idea, but I changed my mind and began my studies there in 1984. When I graduated, I immediately returned to the church in Chilibre as an associate preacher. In 1986 the leaders of the Bible School and the elders from Forrest Park thought I was fit to work as a teacher, and they gave me such an opportunity. Now, I was not only working at the Bible School, but God who clears minds and hearts helped me decide to retake my academic studies. I finished high school with an emphasis in science and started college with a major in Law and Social Studies. Later, I became a lawyer.

During that time, God put in my path the one who would become my wife, Loida Cruz, for whom I waited nine years...three years for her to finish high-school, four more years because God gave her the opportunity to attend college in the United States, and two more years once she returned to Panama and we were preparing for marriage. During that waiting period, I continued my studies and obtained a master's degree in Procedural Law and another master's degree in Superior Education.

Finally, the time came for the long-awaited marriage. Two beautiful daughters, Ingrid and Nathalie Rudas Cruz, have been born of our union. God has given me opportunities to teach classes to innumerable brethren all throughout Central and South America, including brethren from Mexico. He has also given the opportunity to be in charge of

"The Road J've Traveled"

Sharing part of my life has been a pending task. However, at the request of the brethren, here I offer you this excerpt of my life with the purpose of sharing how many good things I've encountered on this road in CHRIST JESUS.



the Bible School of Preaching in Panama and the Children's Home of the Americas.

G od gave me the opportunity to work in the field where souls are being harvested. We were able to establish two congregations, one in Buena Vista of Colon and the other one in downtown Panama City. In 2006 the Forrest Park elders at that time presented me with the challenge of starting a labor in downtown Panama. And, we did just that with blessings from the One in the Highest. Today, I continue to be the preacher of that congregation, Vista Hermosa, with approximately 90 members. Loida, our two daughters, and I work there joyfully for the Church to continue growing.

Today, my time is split between the greatest treasures God has given me ... my family, the Bible School, the Children's Home of the Americas, the church of CHRIST in Vista Hermosa, helping the church in Chilibre, and many other things that God deems, in His infinite mercy, to use me for in the exaltation of His labor while I am on this earth.

"Look, lift up your eyes! See that t GRADUATION at BIBLE \$6

Denis Ordoñez, Dece

Run in such a way that you get it! The realization and fulfillment of the goals in the life of man spiritual goal so important to my life ... an ability to contribute to the Lord's work in a better w because of its positive impact on my being, i.e., showing me how important work, teaching, training

he E.B.A. is an exemplary institution which operates by faith. The manifestations of love are emessage of salvation to multitudes of souls in need and to work with the youngest who are ch and to have been a student of such a beautiful institution.



Isaías Jaén Castilla

Origin: Panamá

Isaías Jaén and Doris de Jaén are from the region of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro, Panama. This couple currently serves in the local Church. Their vision is to plant the Church of the Lord in other regions.



Wilson Orozco & Adriana Quintero
Children: Mathyus-13 years and
Samuel-4 years
Origin: Medellin, Colombia
Wilson Orozco and family are providing

Wilson Orozco and family are providing support to the congregation of Itagí with Bible classes and personal evangelism.



Denis & Viv Origin: Hor Denis Ordoñ married coup region of Ho as an evange Vista Hermo



José Rober Origin: El S José, origina currently sup church in St. providing Bil evangelize.

Our hearts harbor a deep feeling of gratitu the administrators, teaching staff, and those wh

he fields are white for HARVEST!" HOOL OF THE AMERICAS

mber 2019 Graduate

are very fundamental. A man with purpose knows where to go. It is a joy for me to have gained a ay and to have been part of the Escuela Biblia Americas. family, an institution to which I owe much g, and practice are to a servant of the Lord.

evident in the people who financially support the school to train men and women who carry the Idren, as well as women and men in need of Christ. I am honored to belong to the family in Christ

<u>viana Ordoñez</u>

nduras ez and Viviana Ponce are a ole from the Tegucigalpa onduras. Denis currently serves elist in the congregation of sa, Panama.

<u>to Cruz Solano</u> alvador Ily from El Salvador, is oporting the preacher of the Augustine, Usulután, by ole classes and going out to





Rodney Efrain Molina Quiroz Origin: Panamá

Rodney is of the Silico Creek Province in Bocas del Toro, Panama. He is a young entrepreneur who is able to work with the youth of the local congregation and encourage them to commit to the Lord's work.

Alejandro Javier Ampié Hernandez Origin: Managua, Nicaragua Alejandro is a member of the Andrés Castro congregation. His vision is to create a strong group of servants within the congregation with the purpose of achieving Biblical organization.

de to God and to all the people involved ... o have financially helped the Bible School exist.



Building Our Youth for the Future

Cameron Meeks, Associate Minister College Road Church of Christ, Palatka, Florida



n the year 2014 I was blessed with the opportunity to attend my first mission trip to the lovely country of Panama. At the time, I had only been out of the country once, had never conducted an in-depth Bible study with a stranger, and I had certainly never considered mission work to be something I might have a passion for. But, in 2014, my life changed!

The year prior to my trip to Panama was my junior year of high school. I had heard of young people, like me, going on short-term mission trips, but I caught myself wondering, "What could possibly be accomplished with a bunch of teens in one week?" Determined to find the answer, I asked my parents if I could attend a campaign after my graduation. I am so thankful that I did, for it was on that campaign that I discovered why there is so much hype around programs like YES II.



O f all the opportunities that a Christian might pray to experience in their daily walks ... evangelism to thirsty souls, edification of the saints ..., most, if not all of them, are provided on a YES II campaign. In a span of one week in Panama, the emotion that came from men choosing to be restored to the fold, the passion that erupted from a collection of souls yearning to express praise in song, and the oppressing weight of sin being lifted off young people's shoulders as they decided to place their lives in Jesus' hands were all witnessed by and as a result of the efforts made by God's Young Evangelistic Servants.

Though there are differences when the characteristics of short and long-term missions are compared, I observed first-hand the impact that just a few days of doing the Lord's work can have, not only on the churches receiving that help, but on the youth working the mission campaign.



If you ask me today what could possibly be accomplished in a week with a bunch of teenagers, I would simply answer, "Spiritual Lives can be changed for Eternity!"

Train up a child

in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

2019 BSAM Graduation













Class of December 2020

ACIÓN

20

Congratulations to Everyone!

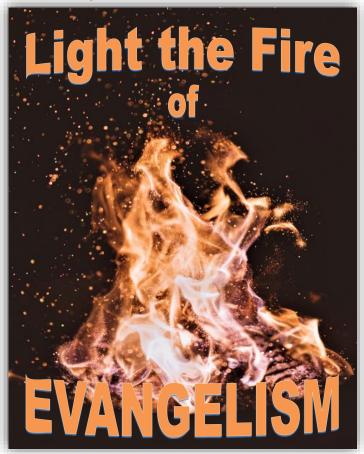






2020 Future Minist Bible School of

Simión Vásquez, Instructor @ BSAM



want to extend a huge "Thank You!" to all the preachers, congregations, and families who sent their young people to the 2020 Camp for Future Ministers held on January 20-26. We had forty-three campers from twenty-five different

As a result of our studies and training during the week, we baptized three precious souls into Jesus Christ. One young man was my nephew. Glory Be To God!

congregations.





Jack Farber, José Rodríguez, Francisco Gonzalez, and I were among the instructors who spoke on these valuable topics ...

- Challenge of Staying Pure
- Using the Gifts God Has Given Us
- Organization, Illustration, and Delivery of Sermons
- Be a Leader in Your Youth Group
- Challenge of Materialism and Worldly Goods
- How to Read the Scriptures
- How to Serve the Lord's Supper
- Importance of Caring for the Brotherhood
- Challenge of Not Teaching False Doctrine
- Developing Maturity and Wisdom



ers Training Camp



Students, counselors, and teachers were all involved in supporting campers in organizing and writing sermons. Two hours each afternoon were dedicated in preparing a sermon to be presented at the end of the week.



An excellent team served in the kitchen. It was a combined effort between BSAM students and wives of preachers.



On the last night of camp, we made a **bon fire**. Each camper took a torch and made a commitment to God. It was wonderful!



On Sunday morning the first thing the campers did was to clean the grounds of the Bible school. Then, we participated in the worship of the Church in Ciudad Jardín. Seven campers participated in the worship. One from the Timothy class and one from the Titus class were chosen to preach. Singing was directed by a camper. Two campers helped serve the Lord's Supper, and two campers helped in collecting the offering.

A fter worship, we began the graduation ceremony of the 43 campers. Brother

Francisco González gave a five-minute Biblical message, and Brother Jack Farber gave a fiveminute farewell message. Three books pertaining



to Bible history were given to the three campers who scored the highest. Also, a commentary book was given to each counselor. Certificates of Recognition were given to all who assisted during the week ... campers, counselors, teachers, and students. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a fellowship lunch together on campus.

"I greatly appreciate the funding provided by the Church of Christ in North Lexington and the Rolling Halls Church of Christ for the 2020 Camp for Future Ministers. Thank you very much for loving and believing in this program that is the fuel for present and future preachers of the U/ord of God. If God allows this camp again next year, we will be there!"

Honors & Memorials October - December 2019

In Honor of...

Dr. Clyde Lewis M/M Mark Simcox

In Memory of... **Donnie Allbritton**

Lawanna Batten M/M Paul Swanson M/M Donnie Wisenbaker Paula Parker McConnell Pest Control M/M Doug Daugherty Joyce Nash M/M Albert Smith

Evelyn Stewart

M/M Paul Swanson Jan Dasher

Lawanna Batten

Charles Butt M/M W.H. Pickler III

Shane Powell Rosie Howton

Betty Jo Dasher

Lawanna Batten

Ray King

Dorothy King

Greg & Trina Floyd

Nicole, Amanda, & Rachael Floyd M/M Clarence Floyd

Evelyn Stewart

Lawanna Batten Wes Emptage Ruth Hale

Stephen Greene

M/M Thomas Bresnyan Joan Spainhower M/M Richard Neiser George Greene M/M Neil Jones Ticcy Smith M/M Robert Wamser St. John's Co. Sheriffs Office M/M Kevin Stork

Ray King

Dorothy King **Haleigh Turner**

M/M Paul Swanson **Mary Fields**

Rosemary Laconte

Dave Huffman

M/M Santiago Iturralde

Carolina Mucado M/M Bill Ward **Shannon Fountain Hart** Lawanna Batten M/M Paul Swanson Mrs. Lupe Phipps (Martinez) **Tony Martinez Tommy Bradford**

Lawanna Bradford

Carol Sawyer M/M Paul Swanson

Donna Padgett M/M Paul Swanson

Russell Woods M/M Paul Swanson

Tommy Bradford M/M Paul Swanson

Ronald Woods M/M Paul Swanson

About HONORS & MEMORIALS

You may "HONOR" a special person or group of people by making a donation of any amount to LAM. You may also 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.

A Huge "Thank You!" to All of You who have heard the Pleas for Help and answered with donations! Bnilding a Security Fence around of the Americas and the Your continued support is needed

With your help Phase 1 of e campus of the Bible School Children's Home is underway. order to complete Phase 2.

Servants in Need of Financial Support!

PANAMA:

Jose Blandford Jose Chavarria Alicio Ellington Francisco Gonzalez Herminio Gonzalez Reyes Moran Rafael Paguaga Elio Quiros Alonso Racine Eugenio Racine Agenor Rudas

HONDURAS:

Javier Arriaga Olvan Diaz Javier Flores Armando Galeano German Gamez Enrique Ramirez

COSTA RICA: Daniel Chavez Mora

<u>CHILE</u>: Wilson Barreto <u>COLOMBIA</u>: Fernando Ospina

NICARAGUA: Juan Lopez William Munoz Javier Nunez Manuel Sosa

PERU:

Alberto Calderon Pablo Calderon Ruben Chacon

BSAM: Students and Recent Graduates

Please consider supporting one or more of these Godly men and their families. Your support of \$25, \$50, \$100, or more per month has a tremendous impact on the lives of these faithful ministers.

Supporting one of these servants is a Gospel Opportunity for YOU to help carry the Gospel Story of Jesus into one of these Latin American countries. Contact LAM today!



New Class Orientation - February 2020 2020 Student Body and Families



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Please fill in and enclose this form when making your charitable contributions.

AREAS WHERE YOU CAN HELP!

MY DONATION IS FOR:

□ Where most needed

- □ Bible School of the Americas
- □ Preacher in need (Please write in name)
- □ Printing Ministry
- □ Benevolence / Disaster Relief
- □ Children's Home of the Americas

MY DONATION IS:

□ one time gift monthly giving of:

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

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City, St. ZIP: _____

SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

Name: _____ Address: _____

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