

# LAM

LATIN  
AMERICAN  
MISSIONS  
NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

**Gospel Opportunities for YOU!**

## END-OF-YEAR REPORTS & FUNDRAISING

### *In the Shadow of 2021*

Jesus Gave His Life! What Will You Give to Take His Mission Forward?

### *Why I Personally Support LAM*

An Elder Urges You to Get Involved ... People Need to Hear the Gospel!

### *2021 Campaign Schedule*

Choose Your Mission ... Registration is Now Open!

### *BSAM: Where Are They Now?*

A 2016 Graduate Shares His Story of Hardship and Accomplishments

### *CHAM: Season of Smiles*

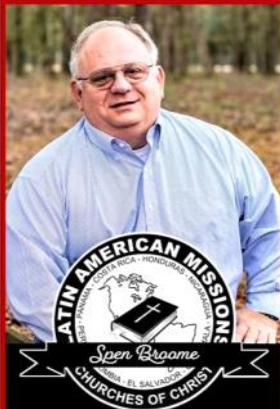
Your Support Will Furnish the Excitement of Holiday Gift Giving!



[LatinAmericanMissions.org](http://LatinAmericanMissions.org)

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A Partnership in Missions  
Providing Gospel Opportunities For ALL!

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2021 Campaign Schedule

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**UNDER THE OVERSIGHT OF THE ELDERS AT FORREST PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST:**

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

**WHY WE SERVE:**

"For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

**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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# In the Shadow of 2021

**Agenor Rudas, Sub-Director, Bible School of the Americas**



Once Peter asked a question to the Lord: “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore, what shall we have?” Matthew 19:27-29. He asked that because of the words from the Master about the difficulties of entering the kingdom of God. Peter was concerned about the future. While reading this passage, I immediately thought about the work we do here at the Bible School of the Americas. We, too, get concerned about the future. Many young men and their families arrive at our preaching school with a desire to better learn the Bible. When they travel to Panama, they leave everything behind and depend on the school to furnish their basic needs until they go back home. We pose the question: **“What will we have for the year 2021?”**

COVID-19 has given us serious concerns. Everywhere, the brethren who donate for this labor, begin to put other priorities ahead because of the uncertainty in the future economy. These are difficult moments that cause us to tighten the belt and ask again, “In this new year, how can I help those who are training to preach the Gospel and save souls?”

As one of the people responsible for the Bible School who deals with our day to day operations, I would like to share with you the great needs that are being experienced in this commendable labor. A preacher once said, “I would like to have the language of angels to move you and let you know all that is needed.” But, since I can only use the language of men, I share with you what I see and feel.

- I see the great effort our **TEACHERS** make by preparing every day. With salaries that are too low, they must do wonders to provide for their families. Yet, I see them every day with smiles on their faces, willing to give a little more.

- I see a group of **STUDENTS**, in the middle of the crisis, who have not stopped studying their Bibles. They receive classes only in audio since we cannot meet in the classroom, sending and receiving small videos through their mobile phones because they do not have computers. But, they gladly say, “We will give a little more.”
- I see **FAMILIES**, who are locked in their apartments to avoid the virus, buy their groceries in the mobile markets that come to the school’s front gate. None of them have spoken to me of going back home. On the contrary, they say, “Let us give a little more.” All of them have the hope we will be able to reinforce the fiber optic. All of them have the hope of receiving a better scholarship and being able to have a more decent lifestyle. Still, others have the hope of coming to Panama to receive further Bible training.
- I see a **CHILDREN’S HOME** filled with children who smile and trust we will provide their daily needs of food, lodging, and healthcare. Those who have been with us for several years have the hope of having another year with schooling and spiritual development.

Because of all the great needs I have shared with you, I ask you one question for this coming year,

**“What will YOU give this year to help the men and women who work tirelessly to bring the labor of Christ on this earth forward?”**

Jesus gave His life. He told Peter that he would receive a hundredfold. I know that He will give us the strength to carry on. It is our hope that He will also bless us all ... those of us who blessedly partner together in this labor that we never stop serving to expand His Kingdom.



# Masks from Moultrie

Westley Hazel, Minister @ Forrest Park Church of Christ

The presence of COVID-19 has turned our world upside down over the course of 2020. This pandemic has not only created struggles here in the United States but all over the world. The Bible School of the Americas and Children's Home in Panama City, Panama have not been exempt from these struggles. On one occasion the Panamanian government came and monitored the entire campus to oversee the quarantine and ensure that all those in need received tests. We struggle to know how to respond both here in our nation and how to help our brethren who are abroad.

Knowing about these struggles a few sisters in Moultrie, Georgia decided to use their talents to help people in the name of the Lord. They set out with some fabric and their sewing machines and made over 500 masks to be shared with our teachers, students, and children on campus in Panama. The first thing I thought of when hearing about this was Tabitha (Dorcas) who we read about it Acts 9:36. This woman was "abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she did continually." When she died all the widows came "showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them" (Acts 9:39).

We need more sisters like Dorcas. We need more brethren like these sisters from Moultrie, GA. People who see a need in the lives of others. They do more than just acknowledge or feel sorry for those involved. They get busy and use whatever talents and resources they have to elevate the struggles of others. Maybe you can write a check of support. Maybe you are able to teach someone from the scriptures. Maybe you know how to make a cloth mask to protect people from a disease. "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." (Col. 3:17)





# Why I Personally Support Latin American Missions

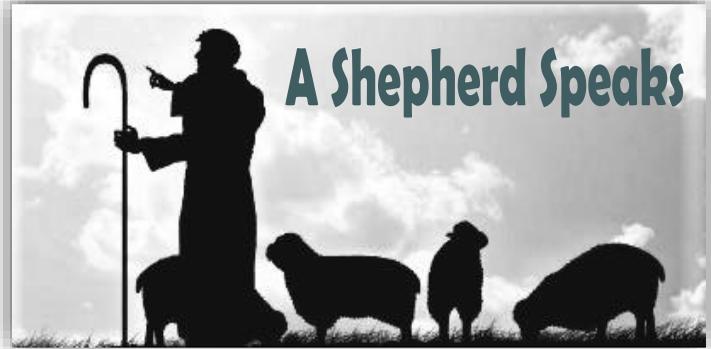
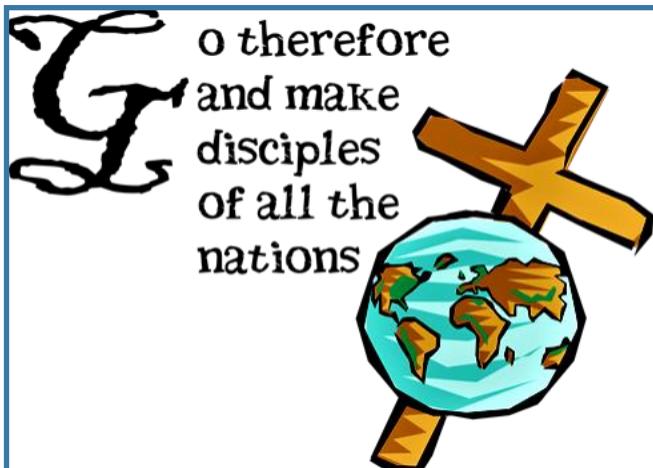
**Darrell Crawford, Elder**  
**Lakeside Church of Christ, Jacksonville, FL**

The sole purpose of mission work is to spread the Gospel of Christ ... the Good News. That would not only include those who live around us or in our “comfort” area of the world, but also to those who might live in places where Christianity is sometimes unknown or has been delivered in an impure form by false teachers and denominations. After His resurrection and before His ascension, Jesus spoke of the importance of mission work. In Matthew 28:16-20 as Jesus spoke with His disciples, it reads:

*“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”*

The fact is ... **People need to hear the gospel!** It is God’s will and our responsibility to spread that “Good News” to all the world.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to become a child of God and receive the hope that we enjoy. This is spoken of in 1 Peter 3:15. While in this time that we live,



there are various ways to communicate and spread God’s Word. It is our duty to seek out the most effective ways and provide diligence in the work of the Lord.

I serve as an Elder in a congregation that has supported Latin American Missions for many years. My wife and I have been personal supporters of LAM and the missionaries for several years, and my wife has been privileged to have participated in several of the mission trips to Chile, Nicaragua, Panama, and other areas of the world. We have seen first hand the work and planning done to put together a campaign devoted to spreading the Word of God to a lost and dying world. We have witnessed the dedication it takes to plan and formulate a Medical Mission to a deprived culture of people while we take medical doctors and resources for granted in our land of plenty. We have seen LAM do this time and time again even during the struggle of financial hardship.

Personally, I urge YOU to get involved in mission work as that is OUR command in Matthew 28. **LAM makes and gives us ALL an opportunity to be a part of a strong mission effort and spreading the gospel more effective and efficient.** And, you will find that this opportunity will strengthen your relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ from your area, as well as around the world. All for the Glory of God!

**When making decisions on HOW to make charitable donations to LAM, please consult with your personal financial advisor.**

# YES II Spencer Broome

Austin Fowler, Educator & LAM Staff Member, Dalton, Georgia



**Building Our Youth  
for the Future**



In 2014 my plans were to go on one mission trip to Guacimo, Costa Rica, but Spen had bigger and better plans. One day while going to lunch, Spen asked me to go with him on an additional campaign to David, Panama because some people had dropped out. *This meant that I would be gone for three and a half weeks.* Being a twenty year old kid who had never left the country before, of course, I had to ask for my mother's permission. Her reply was, "As long as you are with Spen the whole time, I am good with it." As a result of those two campaigns, I got a "bug"—the MISSION TRIP BUG! From 2014 to 2020, I have gone on a total of sixteen campaigns with Spen to the Latin American countries of Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Peru. Because of the memories, stories, and souls that have been impacted, these campaigns have a very special place in my heart.

Spen was a man who truly loved young people. Many times Spen would say, "Give me a bunch of young people, and we will conquer the world." He loved their energy, zeal, tender hearts, and love for God. Countless lives have been influenced for the Kingdom because of Spen Broome.

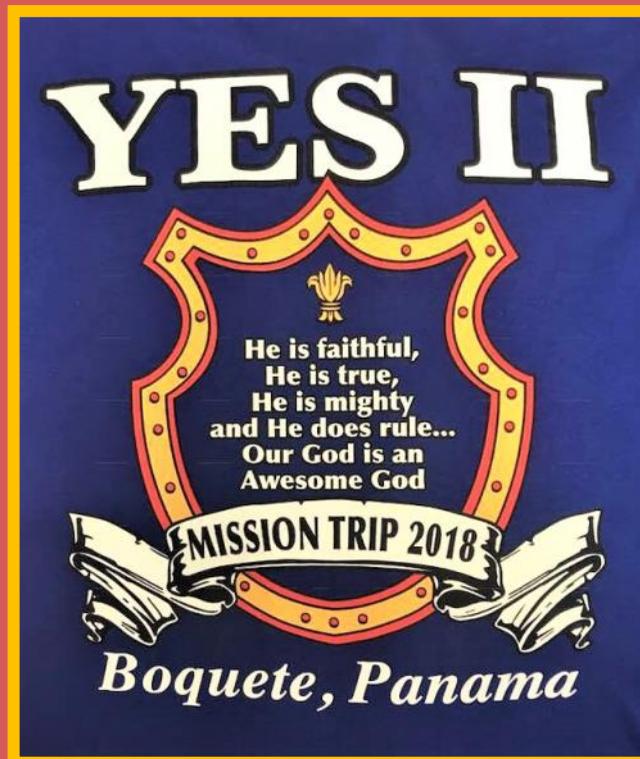
When I think about Spen, I always remember his amazing ability to lead songs. One of Spen's favorite things on a YES II campaign was to lead singing in English before the Spanish service began, and he wanted the team members to *be on time and be loud.* He wanted everyone in the neighborhood to hear us singing praises to God. Spen taught campaigners new songs while on the trips, and he always taught one Spanish song, "Alabare" or "I Will Praise." One of his favorites to teach new team members was what he called the YES II theme song: "He is Faithful." Many of Spen's signature songs trended on Facebook soon after his untimely passing, including: "Are You Washed?" (Quartet Version),

# ~ A Man on a Mission

“Jesus Loves Me” (to the tune of the Flintstones theme song), and many others.

**S**pen was the director of the YES II trips with Latin American Missions. YES II stands for Young Evangelistic Servants. This is in connection to YES (Youth Enrichment Seminar) Weekend, a youth rally at the Forrest Park Church of Christ each February. The focus of the YES II trips is to take teenagers, college students, and young adults on mission trips to Central and South America and fulfill the Great Commission given by Jesus in Mark 16:15. A secondary focus is to take these young people and pair them with an Elder or Deacon in the church, a preacher, or Bible class teacher. These young people get to see “first-hand” how to conduct a home Bible Study, or as Spen would say, “on the job training.” By listening and watching the Bible studies, youth learn how to do the studies themselves. There are many times on a campaign that the team leader will ask one of the young men to lead a portion of the Bible Study. This is fulfilling the command that Paul gave in 2 Timothy 2:2, *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* (NKJV) What began with the Forrest Park youth group going on one mission trip to Panama per year has grown into multiple congregations of over 200 people completing four campaigns a year into multiple countries.

**E**very morning on the campaigns, we began with a devotional. Spen would make announcements... make sure each evangelism team had everything they needed for door-knocking ... and give a message of encouragement, “LET’S GO TO WORK!” If Spen had some parting words for us, it would simply be, “YES II should continue moving forward.” The work that Spen began will continue. We need to keep “going to work” for the Master!



**"Let's GO to Work!"**



## Dear Elders at Forrest Park

I want to thank you for your oversight of Latin American Missions. My job is working with youth and involvement. Several years ago the eldership asked me to work on doing missions with the youth. They wanted to see a stateside trip and begin looking towards an international trip. Sooner than expected, I found Spencer Broome and YES II. I remember announcing our first trip to Liberia, Costa Rica. After services two elderly women cornered me in the lobby and demanded to know why I felt it necessary to put "our children, the Lord's children, in harm's way." I gently explained to them what Spen had relayed to me about how he searched out safe places for the youth to work, and sleep. But it did little to allay their concern. It wasn't until we came home and they heard the report, they began to understand. Five of us in all, three young men and two older men, went on that first trip. I missed the next year due to an error in judgment. My sons were the only ones signed up to go. Because of how it would look to others, we didn't go. I was wrong. I went to the elders later and asked if they supported the work of YES II for our kids. They said, "Yes," and I told them I could not miss another summer even if it was just my kids. They agreed, and we began work on the next summer's trip to Central America. I think we took a total of seven.

One of our deacons grabbed me by the arm in the airport and whispered in my ear, "If something happens and my daughter doesn't come home, you might want to think hard about coming home yourself." I assured him I would bring his daughter home - unless the plane crashed! After our presentation that year I went over to him and apologized. I'd come home with a female who looked a whole lot like his daughter, but she was not the same young lady I'd left Covington with. The trip had changed her. It really opened her up and gave her both confidence and direction. This "non-hugger" hugged me and said, "Thank you." She went on four more trips. Before the 2020 summer trips were canceled due to COVID, I had twenty people signed up to go to Ica, Peru and another seven looking to go to Arequipa with me. The younger kids in the congregation cannot wait to turn 15, and it has nothing to do with getting a learner's permit to drive. They are ready to go on a YES II trip. They understand there are not only financial requirements for this trip, but character requirements, and a few have made great strides in their integrity, participation, and Bible knowledge in preparation and anticipation of going on a YES II trip.

More importantly, YES II is the best evangelistic tool we have in the congregation. We had fifteen baptisms last year, and after you take out the young people who have grown up in church, the majority of the rest have a YES II connection. Young people and adults who have gone on a YES II trip come home and apply the skills they have learned on the trip. One of the seven going to Arequipa with me was baptized in the fall of last year after studying with two young men who have been on multiple YES II trips. It was amazingly cool to watch as the three young men stood together at the baptistry to decide who would do the actual baptizing. Knowing who did it was not important, they flipped a coin. They have been faithful ever since. Neither one of the two boys who studied with him would have begun the study without YES II. We talk about evangelism and inviting friends to church and youth functions, but the only kids that wind up actually studying with a friend are the ones who have gone on a YES II trip. It is not uncommon for one of our YES II participants to call and get advice on an ongoing study. It usually sounds something like this, "Mr. Jeff, I have been looking at some scripture with a friend of mine. I finally got them to sit down and study with me, and we have covered the authority of scripture. Can you remind me where to go next, and would you be available to help with this study if I need you?" I cannot tell you how grateful I am for YES II and the opportunity my young people have to learn from and work with great evangelists and teachers.

We recognize the value of YES II and the hands on experience it provides. We also recognize YES II is part of a larger picture that is LAM, and I am pleased we are able to send this check to help out with the budget this year. Times are definitely uncertain, and I pray we can restart our trips in 2021. Thank you again for your oversight of this worthy work. I pray for you all.

In His Service,

*Jeff Phillips*, Youth Minister @ Covington Church of Christ, Covington, TN

# "One of the Best Team Leaders Ever!"

Wade Webster, Minister  
Bridgewater Church of Christ, Katy, TX



I had the privilege of being with Steve Watts on several YES II Mission Trips. I even got to room with him once. I cannot tell you how much I loved this brother. I was so honored when Spen asked me to write this tribute. Little did I know then that Spen would soon join him in glory. Spen and

Steve got it. They helped me get it too! It is about souls (Matt. 16:26). It is about loving souls! It is about instilling this love into the hearts of others, especially the hearts of young people (2 Tim. 2:2).

Steve and I shared many things in common. For one thing, we both pulled for the same college football team! *Roll Tide Roll!* Please don't quit reading. Prejudice and jealousy are ugly things. Seriously, I want you to keep reading because I want to tell you about my brother, my friend, and my co-worker - Steve Watts. I will keep that RTR stuff to myself from this point forward. But, it will be hard!

Steve was a big guy physically. He was college lineman big. I am not making that up. He actually played on the line in college. I can tell you this, I pity the guy that lined up across from him. I picture Steve helping that poor guy up after one play only to knock him back down the next play. As big as Steve was physically, he was even bigger spiritually. He was a giant in missions. He opened huge holes for others to run through (Col. 4:3). I can tell you this, I would run to his side of the line every time I had the ball. I would follow him through the hole anytime that I needed a first down. Like most who work in the trenches, Steve's name isn't as well known as others. However, Steve Watts was a huge part of Yes II's success. A key part of the success of the YES II program is excellent team leaders like Steve. I heard Spen say that on many occasions. In my opinion, and I know Spen's also, Steve was **one of the best team leaders ever!**

In talking sports, sometimes we talk about how certain players love the game. You can just tell by watching them. Playing isn't a job or a scholarship to them. It is a passion. They would play the game for nothing. If you ever went with Steve to the mission field, then you know how much he loved it. The line from the children's song, "If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it!" certainly applied to Steve. He was happy and all who knew him could see it. He had the biggest smile. He had happy eyes. His body language exuded excitement. I can still see Steve leaning forward in a Bible study explaining how baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3-4, 17). You couldn't help but be excited, because of how excited he was to show you what had changed his life.

Even after Steve was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, he continued to go on mission trips. His body was sick, weak, and exhausted, but His spirit was as zealous and joyful as ever (3 John 2; 1 Pet. 1:8). He pushed himself because he loved young people, truth, and souls so much. One of my daughters got to be on his last team! For that, I will be forever grateful.

YES II has built quite a fan base over the years. It is such a good program that those who go on a trip usually go again, and they generally take someone else with them. Yes II had no greater fan and friend than Steve Watts. He was fanatical about the YES II program (1 Cor. 16:15). I think you can tell that we felt the same way about him. Join with me in honoring this great man of God.



# LAM ... A Partnership in Missions Pro

Note: Plans are being completed for these trips, so  
All campaigns will be confirmed or cancelled  
Confirmations depend on countries opening up for

## MARCH

TBD / SAN RAFAEL, EL SALVADOR / MEDICAL  
19-27 / EBA CAMPUS, PANAMA / CAMPUS

## JUNE

4-12 / VOLCAN, PANAMA / YES II / AUSTIN  
4-12 / CHIMBOTE, PERU / MEDICAL / JOHN  
25-JULY 3 / UPALA, COSTA RICA / YES II /

## JULY

3-11 / ZAMBRANO, HONDURAS / MEDICAL  
16-24 / AREQUIPA, PERU / YES II / AUSTIN

**FOR REGISTRATION  
INSTRUCTIONS VISIT  
LATINAMERICANMISSIONS.O**

# Providing Gospel Opportunities for ALL!

REGISTER ONLINE and reserve your spots now.  
Must be completed no later than 60 days prior to departure.  
Subject to international flights and deemed safe by LAM staff.

...AL / JACK FARBER  
... CAMPAIGN / KIRK BROTHERS

...N FOWLER  
...N FARBER  
...AUSTIN FOWLER

...L / JOHN FARBER  
...I FOWLER

**\$500 DEPOSIT  
DUE 60 DAYS  
IN ADVANCE.**

...ORG



# Masks for Missions

Judy Wilkins, Center Hill Church of Christ, Paragould, AR

Other than for a few minor alterations, my sewing machine had not been out of the closet in years. I certainly did not foresee the project which lay ahead when I decided to make a few masks for my family! With the initial isolation of Covid-19 providing more time, and a growing interest from others in purchasing masks, the opportunity for selling them became a possibility.



I had just recently become aware that the Corona Virus restrictions had prompted many congregations to drop their support for those they supported in LAM countries. Having been on 30+ short term mission trips to different countries, I realized the sad and desperate situation that these families would face. Making and selling masks seemed like a small effort but with each one made, sweet thoughts of those I have known and loved came to mind.

Initially, the masks were adult sizes with a non-woven fiber in between plus a metal piece for the nose. Later a thinner version was available for all day wear and included student sizes of all ages. Tables were set up in a hall of our church building for the convenience of those interested in purchasing masks. It really turned out to be a fun project! I made the masks, but the money came from those who bought them. Some simply needed one, but others bought as their way of having a part in helping with the mission effort and, with generous hearts, often provided a little extra.

Satan is a master of lies. One that he tells is that we, as ordinary Christians, cannot have any effect in foreign missions. Unless we have a college degree in mission work, can speak a foreign language fluently, and are willing to spend years in a country isolated from friends and family, we cannot possibly make any difference. That just is not true!! Although going on a short-term mission trip provides personal experiences that bond you with new found “family”, there are many ways that you can aid, encourage and support those who choose to share God’s message in places that you may never go.

The needs are so great that it seems overwhelming, but I encourage you to find some small way that you can reach out to help. Like the story about the man who was walking along the beach throwing the starfish back into the ocean, when he was told he could not possibly make a difference with so very many along the shore, he tossed yet another and said, “I made a difference to that one.”

**Choose this day to be a ‘Difference-Maker.’  
You may even have a part in changing  
someone’s eternity.**



**Masks for Missions has been able  
to contribute over \$3200 to LAM.**



Children's Home of the Americas

# Season of Smiles

**MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SPECIAL**

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CHILDREN ON THE CAMPUS IN PANAMA.  
YOUR GENEROUS DONATION WILL FURNISH HOLIDAY GIFTS, UNIFORMS,  
AND OTHER MATERIALS AND NEEDS FOR THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR.



# Where Are They Now?

Jimmy Harvin Guerrero Zeledon, Jinotepe, Nicaragua



**M**y name is Jimmy Harvin Guerrero Zeledon, from Nicaragua, married to Maritza de los Angeles Rocha Zamora. We have been married 22 years and have three beautiful children: Denis Eduardo (21), Joel Augusto (16), and Jimary Sharifeth (13). I became a Christian when I was 19 years old in March 1993 and worked finance for 15 years in bank institutions. I was involved in the work of the Church as a Bible teacher and in evangelism campaigns. In 2014 I decided to take a job offer in Costa Rica, so my family placed membership in the congregation of Alajuela where I met the preacher, Gilbert Astorga. He suggested I apply to the Bible School of the Americas in Panama to receive training for two years. Thanks be to God, I was accepted, completed my studies, and graduated in 2016.

**A**fter graduation in December 2016, my family and I went home to Nicaragua. We began attending services at the Church of Christ in Masatepe, and for four months I supported the preacher in evangelism and teaching the members. In April 2017 I moved our membership to San Marcos to help the brethren there. Meanwhile, I applied for a full-time preaching position in the city of Leon encouraged by Brother Guillermo Hernandez, the contact person for LAM in Nicaragua, but another brother was selected for the job. In August 2017, when the San Marcos Church learned I was not moving to Leon, they asked me to work as their preacher part-time. The support I received through LAM was not enough to cover my family's expenses, so I asked for help from several brethren to start a small carpentry shop to help supplement our income.

The congregation also helped with transportation expenses since our home was eight kilometers away from San Marcos. I remained in charge of that work until December 2018.

**I**n January 2019, my family and I decided to begin the work of establishing a church in our home town of Jinotepe. The support I was receiving did not cover our basic living expenses, so I continued to work part-time in the carpentry shop in my home. My family of five members began the new work with four other members who decided to join us, my parents and sisters who had been worshipping in Masatepe. We visited several brethren who were practicing liberal doctrines, convicted six of them using the scripture, and won them over to the pure doctrine. On Sunday, March 10, 2019, the new labor was established in the city of Jinotepe with 15 faithful brethren gathering in my home.

**S**tarting in 2020 I was blessed with additional financial support. I am very grateful to the brethren who provide this. It has given me the opportunity to dedicate more time to the church here. However, the needs continue because my oldest son is currently in his third year of medical school, and the demands are high. Currently, I am dedicating two and a half days per week in the carpentry shop in order to fulfill my family obligations. This concerns me though, because I cannot devote my full time to the vineyard, and it delays the growth of the labor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**I**n spite of the pandemic, we have had three baptisms, and we now have 18 faithful members, seven children and two constant visitors...a total of 27 people attending. We meet on Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday and have a visitation plan for those who are sick, need restoring, and personal



evangelism. We also have a benevolence team that brings basic food to brethren in need using the weekly offering. Due to the pandemic we are behind in some programs, meeting only on Sundays with some absences from the older brethren. However, I am always in contact with them by phone during the week, tending to their needs.

There are obstacles to the work. Some contacts live a long distance and many people are unable to visit because we do the work on foot. If we had a means of transportation, we



could advance in the field work and bring more souls to Christ. There are brothers who would like to accompany us in the work of evangelizing and visitation, but their limited economic resources make it difficult for them to participate. This is normal for a new work because it lacks many resources, but I do the work together with my wife and children. We are a team.

At this time the Church of Christ in Jinotepe is not self-supporting since most brothers have many needs and few economic resources. But, they have noble hearts which guide them to help with what they have. I believe that as we grow in numbers, we will need great help. For now we are able to gather in my house, but we have a great desire to get a larger place. My house is small, and the Church is growing. We also need Bibles, hymn books, adult chairs, children's furniture, and children's teaching materials. The most important thing we want to have is our own land.

The town of Jinotepe is full of denominations and churches of Christ teaching liberal doctrine, so it is a great challenge that we have set out to bring more souls for Christ. We have been striving in evangelistic work, taking advantage of some contacts who are relatives of brothers and sisters. In promoting a good example in our community and doing benevolent activities to attract contacts, we strive to make known the true purpose of coming to the feet of Jesus Christ which is to obtain eternal life in heaven and become co-heirs with Christ if we suffer together with Him.

## Bible School of the Americas

The need for preaching the gospel is always urgent ... at all times ... and in all situations.

**Your Support is Needed Now!**

Michael Houts, PHD in Nuclear Engineering, MIT Preacher training at the Bible School of the Americas is running full speed ahead. Students from six countries are studying full time to equip themselves for preaching the gospel throughout Latin America. I was blessed to have the opportunity to teach a "Christian Evidences" class in June of 2020. At that time travel restrictions related to COVID-19 made it necessary to teach the class via the internet. The students rose to the challenge and went the extra mile to ensure they gained the most knowledge and experience possible. Numerous complex topics were covered, and the school's translator, Rafael Paguaga, did an excellent job enabling the presentation of the material along with effective discussion, question and answer sessions, and overall brainstorming on how the material could be applied to evangelism.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28). While everyone involved with the class would have preferred a “normal” situation, it was also clear that many things were working together for good. The students were becoming quite adept at remote learning. Upon graduation the ability to learn, teach, preach, and evangelize remotely could be of significant benefit to their ministry. Through the years classmates at the Bible School have developed strong personal friendships that have served them throughout their lives, but those on campus in 2020 will likely form even deeper bonds. It was extremely encouraging to see the student's zeal for evangelism and their support for one another, which was obvious even through a computer.

*(Note: Dr. Houts is one of several adjunct teachers who annually provide instruction to our students at the Bible School of the Americas in Panama.)*

# Bible School of the Americas

## *Committed to Evangelism*

Francisco Gonzalez, Instructor @ Bible School of the Americas

For many years, great effort, and big support from generous souls, the work of training preachers has united many Americans and strengthened the Church of Christ with the preaching of the



2020 Student Body of the Bible School of the Americas

Instructors evaluate the students and approve them for diplomas crediting them as laborers with knowledge and abilities to teach and preach the Word of God.

Gospel in many countries of Latin America. This year we have students from Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia and Peru. Their hopes are for growth in the preaching of the Gospel and in spiritual formation. Once the two years of classroom studies and hands-on training are finished, each graduate will take back to their country a wealth of knowledge with a desire to go to work.

Students must adapt to a new and demanding lifestyle, devoting themselves full-time to intensive and rigorous studies. The schedule prevents students from doing any secular work outside of school. Men begin classes at 7 AM and do not stop until 2:30 PM with a 40 minute break for lunch. Every day first and second year students receive instruction in five consecutive subjects taught by five instructors. Then, at 2:40 PM the women have two classes taught by two instructors until 4:40 PM. The husbands take care of the children while their wives are in class.

Our first year students are from Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia, Peru and Panama. They give their best effort with love every day. By faith these brethren left their countries of origin and came to Panama to be trained for two years. Our second year students and their families are from Mexico, Honduras, Colombia and Panama. They have great hopes of seeing their dreams come true when they graduate in December 2020 and return to their homes. Besides their dedication to studies, each one of the students also labors in other works with many congregations they visit while they are at the Bible School of the Americas. They have the opportunity to apply their training in evangelism, visitation, preaching, and teaching.

For the staff of the Bible School of the Americas, a great daily concern is to fulfill the responsibility of training these men and women in the good doctrine and to empower them with the necessary tools to give their best when they go home to their respective countries. However, not only the direction and training is our concern, but also providing their physical needs of food for meals, clothing, adequate housing, health care, and education. This allows them to focus 100% on their studies.

(continued next page)



## LET US LABOR MORE FOR THE KINGDOM ON EARTH ... AND KEEP OUR TREASURES IN HEAVEN! by: Agenor Rudas

I arrived home on a day when work had been hard, and COVID-19 was overwhelming us...not only for my family, but also for the preaching students at the Bible School and for the children in the Home. Lying on a sofa, I stretched my hand for the Bible on the coffee table. As I opened its pages, I found this passage:

*“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.” Matthew 6:19-20*

Like a gust of wind, images blew into my mind of the rich young man who told Jesus he wanted eternal life. However, his attachment to the riches of this world caused him to leave sadly, and he was lost eternally. Immediately, I related those images with the task we have at the Bible School of the Americas, with the mission of recruiting young men from the congregations in different countries, and whose hearts burn with desire when they hear of the possibility of coming to train in the great task of preaching to win souls for the kingdom. Many of these young men must stay sadly behind...not for the same reasons of the rich man...but, rather, for lack of funds to pay for their training. WHY? Because many who have resources use them for more treasures on this earth, and few use their resources on things that have spiritual greatness in the kingdom of God. I believe...

***WE SHOULD LABOR MORE FOR THE KINGDOM ON EARTH AND KEEP OUR TREASURES IN HEAVEN!***

Today, in the midst of difficult circumstances, we continue to work in the teaching of preachers with the hope they will reach new souls for Christ. Our teachers give their best effort to do their jobs with financial difficulties, with illness, and with all their limitations. Our students start the day with the hope of receiving knowledge and skills...some with better tools of learning (computers bought with their own efforts), and others with the desire to acquire these tools that will better help them in the task of moving forward in their studies. Every person, faculty and students involved in this labor, stretches their limited financial aid as far as it will go. We all thank the brethren who have a heart of gold and who share with us what God has given to them. Tomorrow, we will again begin our work day with energy hoping that Christ will touch more hearts to “lay up treasures in heaven” instead of here on earth. Together, we will train preachers for the labor here on earth.

***WE SHOULD LABOR MORE FOR THE KINGDOM ON EARTH AND KEEP OUR TREASURES IN HEAVEN!***

With great vision we see the future, and in God we trust that all those who come next year will also have the same benefits. The sole desire is that the marvelous labor of Christ and His eternal Kingdom grows with the generous support from everyone. Our moto says, **“Training Laborers for the Harvest.”** That is and will be our greatest commitment with God and the Church of our Lord from us who trust in your unconditional support.



# Honors & Memorials

## August - September 2020



### In Memory of...

#### Kathy Long

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

#### Shirley Cameron

M/M Paul Swanson

#### Donnie Allbritton

M/M Brad Cochran  
M/M Dallas Sapp  
Geraldine Dailey

#### Glenn & Virginia Cochran

M/M Brad Cochran

#### Carlethia Mikel

M/M Bill Ward  
Lawanna Batten  
M/M Donnie Wisenbaker  
Geraldine Dailey  
M/M Paul Swanson

#### Steve Watts

Joanna House  
Tana Heaton  
M/M Jonathan Sampson  
M/M Version Deraney  
M/M Don Garner

#### Jim Trent

Abingdon Church of Christ

#### Austin Comer

M/M Rickey Comer

#### Karen Diehl

Seneca Church of Christ

#### Raymond Morrison

Lawanna Batten  
M/M Paul Swanson

#### Robert Blair

Geraldine Dailey  
M/M Don Garner

#### David Johnson

M/M Paul Swanson  
Lawanna Batten  
M/M Donnie Wisenbaker  
Geraldine Dailey

#### Jo Walker

Geraldine Dailey

#### C. L. Harris

Geraldine Dailey

#### Agnès Hagin

M/M Don Garner

#### Marie Gibson

Geraldine Dailey

#### Spencer Broome

M/M Dallas Sapp  
M/M Travis Bailey  
M/M Donnie Wisenbaker  
M/M Bill Ward  
Lawanna Batten  
Pat Lester  
Jeff Bingle  
Ronnie Harrell Jr.  
Linda Harrell  
M/M Bill Daugherty  
M/M Danny Bishop  
M/M Tyson Brock  
Eish Jackson  
M/M Sky Hardin  
Claudette Williams  
Keith Johnson  
Andy Register  
M/M Roger Steis  
M/M Kenneth Spake  
Sharpesville Church of Christ  
M/M Troy Black  
Anne Lineberger  
M/M James Sweeney  
Southern Hills Church of Christ  
Karen Hanke Family

Dorothy McNally  
Gary McNally Family  
Barb Sucsy Family  
M/M Jonathan White  
M/M Deland Guthrie  
M/M Donnie Swilley  
M/M Christ Hallmark  
M/M Paul Swanson  
JoAnne Coggin  
M/M Bradley Frantz  
Nicole Wynne  
Austin Fowler  
M/M Donald Swilley Sr.  
M/M Don Garner

#### Roland Wynn

Lawanna Batten  
M/M Paul Swanson

#### Stanley Smith

Frances Briggs

## About HONORS & MEMORIALS

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

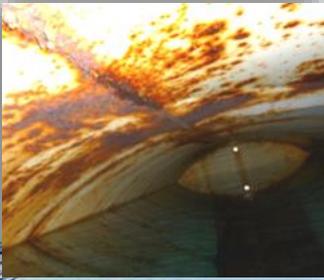
You may also make a "MEMORIAL" donation to LAM in memory of a loved one who is deceased.

Please use the printed form on the back page of this newsletter when sending your donation to the LAM office.



## URGENT NEED

The metal tank for water storage on the campus of BSAM and CHAM in Panama has been inspected and repairs are overdue. The water inside the tank is consumed by those living on the campus ... teachers, students & their families, children & their care givers. Cost of repairs is \$20,000. Please help!



Water is life. Clean water is health, and dirty water is disease!

# Servants in Need of Financial Support!

## BIBLE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS:

Students & Recent Graduates

## PANAMA:

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

## HONDURAS:

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

## COSTA RICA:

Daniel Chavez Mora

## CHILE:

Wilson Viloría

## EL SALVADOR:

Perulapan, building rent  
Tonaca, building rent

## COLOMBIA:

Fernando Ospina

## NICARAGUA:

Juan Lopez  
William Munoz  
Javier Nunez  
Manuel Sosa

## PERU:

Alberto Calderon  
Pablo Calderon  
Ruben Chacon

*Being a Partner in LAM is a*

### ***Gospel Opportunity***

*for YOU to help carry the Gospel Story of  
Jesus into eight Latin American countries.  
Contact LAM today!*

*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.*



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**Please fill in and enclose this form when mailing 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St. ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

### SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_