



The Bible Mission in America (CBMA) and the Bible Mission in Canada (CBMC) work to establish and grow ecclesias in the mission fields. Through efforts related to preaching, pastoral and welfare, brothers and sisters are actively involved in spreading the gospel to those areas where the light of God's truth is only a small flame.

While personal contact is ideal, travel to the various countries is limited by both financial resources and available time. To overcome these difficulties, and the feeling of isolation, many of the mission ecclesias employ technology to maintain communication with each other and the CBMA/C brethren. Internet connectivity is abundant in many of the cities where the mission ecclesias exist, and communication services such as Skype are often used to keep in touch.

This month, we would like to provide an update on the ecclesias in Latin America, with a special emphasis on how they employ technology to help their brothers and sisters grow in the faith.

Argentina - Córdoba

The little group of three members soldiers on. Bro. Robert Alderson made a visit in April and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jean Hunter did the same at the end of May 2016.

Brazil

The four members in isolation are supported by phone/Skype and literature.

Chile

God willing, Brother Andrew and Sister Shaye Yearsley from New Zealand and their three children Zipporah (6), Arwyn (4), and Hoshea (4 months) will arrive in Santiago, Chile on July 27th for a long term stay in that country, with the support if the CBMA. Andrew and Shaye have spent time in Chile before when six years ago Andrew was posted to Santiago for six months with a work contract. Since then it has been their ambition to return with a focus of dedicating time to furthering the Truth in that country.



The small group in Chile have struggled to maintain cohesion over the years and one of the high points of the history of the ecclesia in Chile was the time the Yearsleys spent in Santiago. We hope and pray that the impact of the Yearsleys in Santiago will help bring the potential out of the Chilean brethren and form a platform to more actively preach in Santiago and beyond.

Colombia

The three members there are supported by telephone and receive some financial assistance.

Costa Rica

Bro. David Collister has taken over the responsibility as Linkman and reports several uses of technology there. The Costa Ricans continue to Skype their Sunday Exhortation and Lecture to Bolivia. They are looking into other alternatives, including using a Wi-Fi camera, to stream their morning services at a higher quality.

At the moment, preaching efforts are on hold due to time limitations of the brethren. They would like to create a web page, but need to look at specifics. They will need one brother or sister to be the webmaster, uploading content, etc. However, they also need to look at logistics as to how the content to be uploaded is reviewed and approved by the brethren.

El Salvador

The three ecclesias are very active. Support is provided via regular calls to the recording brethren and others. There were two baptisms in March 2016. In addition, Sis. Alejandra García of the Sonsonate Ecclesia and Bro. Vit Reznicek of the Czech Republic were married on May 14th. They met on the internet, he traveled to El Salvador and they hit it off. He speaks fluent Spanish and has settled down in El Salvador, teaching English for a living. They attend the Sonsonate Ecclesia. There are three persons studying for baptism in San Salvador.



Guatemala

There are currently six active members in Guatemala - four brothers and two sisters that meet weekly in a rented home. Bro. Victor and Sis. Marina are both out of work at the moment, and are considering moving away from the capital which would be a big loss to the ecclesia. Several visits are planned by CBMA brethren this year and into 2017 as support to this small ecclesia.

Honduras

Weekly phone/Skype baptismal classes are given to two young men and the niece of one of them. One of the fellows found us on the internet and the other is the brother in the flesh to a Christadelphian brother in Florida.

Mexico - Guadalajara

We continue to be very excited about the response to the Gospel in Mexico. The Guadalajara Ecclesia has demonstrated significant ownership of the ecclesia's affairs and the arranging brethren are driving a robust agenda of pastoral and outreach initiatives. The Bible Center remains open daily and closes only on Fridays, largely manned by Bro. Victorino.

However, the neighborhood of the ecclesial hall has continued to slide downhill quickly and in the evenings, the area around the Bible Center is dangerous. The ecclesia is leading a search for a new venue, closer to the center of the city and more convenient for the members to get to. Foot traffic at the venue will be a primary consideration.

From September 16-18, the ecclesia is planning on holding a study weekend, with Bro. Manuel Fernandez from El Salvador providing the classes. This will be held most likely at a hotel in the city of Guadalajara and invitations will be sent out throughout Mexico and Central America.



Mexico - Mérida, Campeche and Apatzingán

Weekly Skype/phone Bible classes with a sister and several young ladies continue in these towns. Bro. Ed Binch plans to make a speaking trip to Mérida in June, 2016, God willing.

Mexico - Ocotlan

There is now a new ecclesia established in Ocotlan, with six members and nearly twenty students. Ocotlan is located to the southeast of Guadalajara, about a 2 hour drive from the Bible Center in Central Guadalajara. The city has about 90,000 inhabitants and was founded in the 1530's. It is a much different atmosphere from the crowds of Guadalajara. Today, there are six baptized members in Ocotlan, three of which were baptized in April. The ecclesia continues to meet at the home of Bro. Manuel Rodriguez on Sundays and several are able to get to mid-week class there. Other classes are occurring in homes in the nearby communities of Santa Cruz.



The members of Ocotlan plan to attend the Guadalajara meeting once per month.

Unfortunately, public transportation is highly unreliable and expensive for the members. We are contemplating the recommissioning of the van for these members to use to accommodate their transportation needs. There are 15 people studying with a new sister, Cynthia, in a nearby city called Santa Cruz. She was a Catholic until learning of the Truth from Bro. Sergio Lomeli and connecting with Bro. Manuel Rodriguez. She is filled with enthusiasm about the Truth and committed to Bible study. Additionally, Bro. Luis is a young brother who runs a high-end family bicycle shop in town. He is still in his 20's and regularly exhorts. He and Bro. Manuel make up a strong tandem for classes and exhortations.

Peru - Lima

The little ecclesia continues to function well within their ability, meeting regularly. They are supported by several telephone/Skype classes and two annual visits, with one planned for the end of May.



Spain

Telephone/Skype baptismal classes are being given to a fellow in Valencia who received the postal course from us in 2012, set it aside for the time being, then more recently found the websites of a couple of Salvadoran brethren and asked for baptism.

Other Latin America in general

At present 200 students receive one of the postal courses monthly. There are five postal courses which students can request. But there is a gradual transition to doing more work by telephone/Skype, so that about fourteen weekly Bible classes are now given in this manner, and others are planned. Most are for baptismal preparation, some are to give spiritual support to newly-baptized members or those in isolation, and three Sunday-school classes are given to youngsters in their early teens.

Los Angeles Hispanic Ecclesia

This ecclesia carries on normal activities including two weekly ecclesial Bible classes. The young people receive four classes a week. Seven young people have registered for Idyllwild Bible School. Postal courses are being sent to 50 students. The ecclesia has set up its own website and interestingly enough, the first contact to request information was a fellow from Rosario, Argentina, who received a Bible course from Bro. Hugo Petrilli many years ago! Telephone contact has been established with him. Work continues



on development and marketing for the website.



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