



Reflection: Increase in the Mission Fields

We had an opportunity at the Annual CBMA/C Meeting this month to look back over the last several years of labor in the Americas. It was utterly amazing to see how much God has blessed the labor of those who have patiently and tirelessly planted the Gospel Seed and then faithfully watered it. Twelve years ago there were no brethren in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru or Puerto Rico. In Mexico there were a few scattered brothers and sisters, but no ecclesia. Today, there are not only brothers and sisters in all of these places, but there are now six growing ecclesias—lampstands for the Gospel—in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Mexico.

This is because of God's blessing, for which we give our Father much thanks, but it is also a blessing mediated through the sacrificial labors of those who gave—and continue to give—many hours each day to this work. Some of this work is done by brethren who have left their homes to labor in a foreign country, often requiring a foreign language. Others work from their homes by mailing out Bible courses, teaching Bible studies by phone, or simply keeping in contact to encourage and support.

It is difficult to convey the magnitude of this labor. The closest we can come is to recall that the Apostle Paul said the "care of all the ecclesias" rested on his shoulders. Preaching in the mission fields of the Americas is an emotional burden as much as it is a physical one. The lives of new believers must be nourished in an ongoing basis. Sometimes you become the closest friend they have because you have brought to them the Gospel of *their* salvation. This bond formed is one that endures forever!

It is a truly humbling experience to have the opportunity to "impart ... not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives" as Paul said because of those who have become "dear to us" in this work. Please consider joining in this work of the Father and the Son to bring the light of the Gospel of Salvation to all people on this earth.

Thirty-One Baptisms in 2012 – *"But the word of God grew and multiplied" Acts 12:24*

As you know, this reference from Acts chapter twelve describes the result of Paul's first Missionary Journey. CBMA and CBMC are about fifty years into our own missionary journeys. Our missions are to preach first, provide pastoral care second, and offer welfare only when needed. At this time we have a limited number of full-time missionaries in the field—this is because our resources are limited. Much of the preaching that we do now is done by brethren who are dedicated to visit our forty-five ecclesias as often as they can. Their visits coincide with special classes, lectures and follow-up studies with both new and existing



Baptism of Bro. Hector Farias in
Guadalajara, Mexico



Bre. Ronald Santamaria Barrantes and Wilberth Herrera Arroyo in Costa Rica

students. In addition, almost 500 correspondence lessons are sent out each month and follow-up studies take place via e-mail and Skype.

This year we have been blessed with thirty-one baptisms and we anticipate two more before the year's end. These baptisms took place in widespread areas such as Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, Jamaica, Mexico, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Chile, and El Salvador. On twelve occasions there were two or more people baptized at once. We are also excited to mention that ten of the baptisms this year took place in Guadalajara, Mexico alone. God's hand is surely at work in Latin America and the Caribbean!

Can you imagine thirty-one baptisms in your ecclesia? That's a lot of post-baptismal classes to conduct! So in addition to working with contacts currently studying for baptism, we need to guide and help the newly-baptized members grow into their ecclesias. Please continue to support us in this important work – either financially or through hands-on involvement in the work itself. There are many and varied opportunities for service: tutoring for ThisIsYourBible.com, visiting ecclesias in the mission field, and supporting Works of Faith projects are just a few. You can find more information about how you can help on our website at <http://www.cbma.net>.

Warm Jamaican Fellowship

We just returned from a lovely visit with our brethren and sisters from the Broughton Ecclesia (near Little London), in Westmoreland, Jamaica. For my wife Susan and myself, it had been our second visit to this lovely little ecclesia. This time we had come down from Canada with brother Ron and sister Judy Leadbetter (Book Road Ecclesia) and were staying in the Montego Bay area. Brother Ray Arthurs from the Broughton Ecclesia was kind enough to set us up with a driver who picked us up in Montego Bay and brought us over to Little London.



The road to the Broughton Ecclesia, Jamaica

The drive west from Montego Bay to Little London is about a 2-hour drive, which takes you along a coast-hugging road through many small Jamaican communities. The car often had to dodge goats and dogs along the way, which made the trip quite interesting at every turn. Driving on the left side of the road was also quite unusual for us. The drive took us through many peaceful coves and towns that were bordered by white sands. We got a chance to see a truer picture of what Jamaica is really like off the beaten path.

When we reached the Broughton Ecclesia, there were about a dozen members there to greet us and brother Ron gave a lovely exhortation about the kingdom. The crow of roosters outside the hall often punctuated Ron's exhortation, which made it quite memorable. The brethren and sisters were very appreciative of our visit and when the meeting finished they broke out into a chorus of "Brethren let us walk together", as they each hugged us goodbye.

Our Sunday visit was capped off with a lovely luncheon across the street from where brother Ray has his tourist villa and home in Negril. It was very nice to spend some time with the brothers & sisters from the Broughton Ecclesia.



Brothers and sisters of the Broughton Ecclesia

We would encourage all brethren and sisters who would happen to be in this part of Jamaica to stop by and experience the warm fellowship of our brethren and sisters of the Broughton Ecclesia.

Submitted by Bro. Peter and Sis. Susan Dulis, Toronto West Ecclesia

Recent Baptisms in Costa Rica

Bro. Douglas Vanegas of the Santa Barbara Ecclesia in Costa Rica writes that on October 21th, 2012 they had the privilege of baptizing into Christ two new members of the household of faith, Sis. Benilda Rojas Murillo and Bro. Bryan Garmendia Soto.



Bro. Bryan Garmendia Soto and
Sis. Benilda Rojas Murillo

Benilda is the fruit of outreach carried out in the city of Grecia, about a half-hour's journey from Santa Bárbara, where the ecclesia is located. They have been preaching intermittently in Grecia for a number of years and plan to work there on a more regular basis in 2013, God willing. Benilda is the sister of Bro. Edwin Paniagua, also of Grecia. She is married with three children, and we hope that in time the rest of her family will join her in the ecclesia.

Bryan was raised in the Sunday school, since his mother and grandmother are members of the ecclesia and have always stressed the importance of God in his life. Even before his baptism he was a leading member of the CYC, especially as an organizer of the skits put on by the young people. We are confident that in time he will become a pillar of the ecclesia.



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