

Into All The World!



MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Vocational Training

Locations Covered
(Sep-Nov, 2011)

Mexico: 14 locations

Guatemala: 2 Locations

Nicaragua: 6 Locations

Colombia: 12 Locations

Uruguay: 2 Locations

Venezuela: 16 Locations

Chile: 7 Locations

Ecuador: 3 Locations

USA: 18 Locations

Peru: 5 Locations

TOTAL: 84 locations

“For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.” 1 Thess. 2:3 &4

To the Elders, Supporters, co-workers and Brethren:

I feel guilty for not writing since August. After the meeting we had at the Memorial Church in Houston in August, it seems that God has just opened doors wide for us to work in continuing this leadership program. One of the decisions was to continue spreading the good news everywhere. God has certainly given us the “Heads up” on that one. We have new places to go in virtually every country we approach. But we are also facing heavy opposition as we grow. Here are some of the highlights:

San Pedro Sula, Honduras & Cojutepeque, El Salvador- Alberto Castañeda and Hector Fernandez, both elders, recently selected from Colombia & Mexico, have been teaching these brethren with whom we had been working for many years. During Hector’s visit last month, both congregations **celebrated the establishment of elders and deacons.**

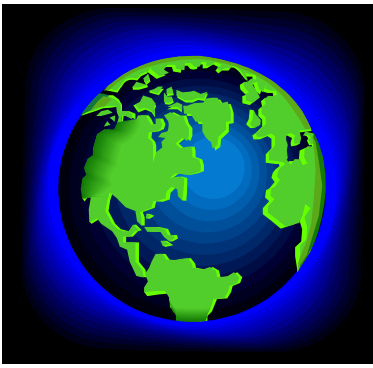
Venezuela- Julio Cedeño & Pedro Sanchez, both elders that have recently been appointed, from USA & Chile led a very successful preacher’s retreat with nearly 70 attending. While in Venezuela, they preached & taught in other cities. The church in **Maracaibo appointed elders** at this time. In Barquisimeto, one of the model churches that established elders & deacons in 2004 had an attendance of around 800 Sunday morning. When Pedro preached there they had 15 baptisms. That Church has started 6 other new congregations in the area. One of those has around 300 members. It’s a work that has taken place over an 11 year period. However, violence in the area is a major problem. Beto Hernandez, one of our instructors, was shot in the leg

a month ago during a gang robbery while he was riding a bus from Barquisimeto to San Cristobal. A shooting occurred during a robbery attempt at the hotel where Pedro Sanchez was staying by the Caracas airport but he was unharmed.

Mexico- Violence in this country is a major issue. Demetrio Hernandez, another of our co-workers was driving with his family toward the border and saw a mass of bodies on the side of the road. Obviously it was a mass execution. Paco Rada teaches at the preaching school in Matamoros, just across from Brownsville. The school has closed because of violence and shootings in the area. While trying to avoid highway travel, we still cover as many locations as possible in Mexico. Pray for Demetrio Hernandez, Jorge Membreño, Hector Fernandez, Paco Rada, Manuel Rada, Julio Cedeño, Bill Conley, Manuel Urbina and others as we travel for His cause in that country.

USA- We have a kind of “Missions in Reverse” event blossoming in this Nation. Funding is needed to bring in excellent preachers & teachers from Latin-America to evangelize the Spanish speaking portion of the USA. God is continually opening new doors for us to prepare Hispanic leadership in His church. We have several “Model” churches to work with, even to the point that I have been teaching fully bilingual lessons in places like Weslaco, TX. Waukegan, IL and Charlotte, NC. Years ago, I thought this was unique when we did it in Eagle Pass, a border town in Texas. Now we are seeing many more 2 or 3 language congregations with Hispanic leaders in the mix. (Cont. to P.2)

“Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” Acts 18:9-10



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“...This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Therefore I ask you not to lose heart...” Eph 3:11-13

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When we first arrived in Houston in 1968, there was one small Hispanic group of the church meeting at 77th St. There are probably over 30 groups meeting today all over the city; some on their own and some along with the English speaking churches. The Hispanic groups are now all over the USA and even Canada, I'm sure it is a direct result of the massive migration of Latin-Americans to this country. We are now holding our seminars in Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida, Illinois, California, Arkansas, Wisconsin, and more recently our first session in Baltimore, Maryland. The Hispanic church in Rogers, AR stands alone and has established elders and deacons as well as a preacher training facility. The Hispanic side of the Silver Springs church in Silver Springs Maryland started with Roberto Benitez and his family in 1987 and now they have around 150 members. From there they have established 6 more Spanish works in the Washington D.C. area. Roberto (from the Dallas area) is one of our co-workers that helps build churches and church buildings. The Northwest church in Houston has a Hispanic group and meets as one church with the English Speaking. They have 5 elders, two of them are Hispanic. The church in Weslaco, TX also has one Hispanic and three English speaking elders.

We are very thankful that God has blessed us, not only with supporters, but with excellent collaborators in this Leadership Development Program. Without exception, everyone of those helping us is a model Christian, part of a morally and doctrinally strong family and congregation and definitely able to teach and prepare others to teach God's word. We have a great blessing in that each of the instructors has the notorious talent of staying in God's word, giving God the glory and showing humility and sacrificial service as an example to others. They are also bold in explaining God's word. This results in soundness, unity and sensitivity to the physical and spiritual needs of each individual they encounter.

This program utilizes ministers, elders, deacons and teachers whose formal education has been at their home and/or home congregation, as well as formally trained educators with Master's and even Doctorate's degrees from well known Christian Universities. They honor and encourage us by participating with us sharing their knowledge and understanding unselfishly and freely. As far as the students in all our locations, we find them to be eager, hungry for knowledge, and willing to give their time to learn.

Along with looking for continuous growth in each congregation, we are also nurturing our own instructors as we prepare them to be the leaders of this program. Like Thessalonica, the Poblacion Santiago congregation in Chile where Pedro Sanchez serves as one of the four elders already has our teaching program working. They have 19 locations in Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Uruguay. They have grown and are developing home-grown ministers, missionaries, elders, and deacons.

On the home front, we are honored with strong individuals capable of taking the leadership of this ministry over at any time. Paco Rada, Julio Cedeño and Vince Miranda, all excellent teachers, have been working with us since the inception of this program in 1999. More recently, Bob Young joined us. He is a retired vice president of Ohio Valley University. His doctorate degree is in leadership development of smaller congregations and he is fully bilingual.

We would like to say that we are very thankful to all of you for your generous, unconditional love, support, prayers and profound involvement. It is because of your undivided efforts that this program has reached it's goals. To God be the glory! In His service,

Robert Miranda-Vocational Training Program