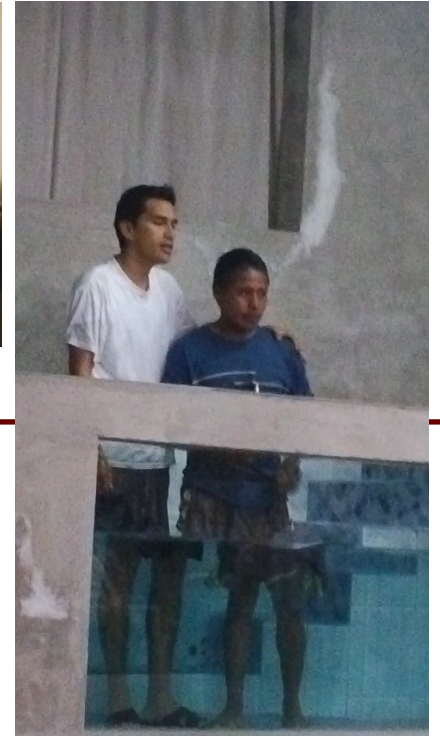




Roberto Benitez directed the efforts of these strong young young men



Hugo baptized in Ibarra after studying .

MISSION TO ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA

Seven young men, four from from Northwest, Andrés, Eduardo & Luis Cedeño and Anthony Miranda, two from Knott, Mason & Landon Parker, and one from Empire Central, Jorge Silva traveled to Northern Ecuador and Southern Colombia to work on two construction projects and share God's word with the churches in Ibarra & Tulcan in Ecuador, Pasto & Tuquerres in Colombia. Along with others from Knott and Dallas Texas, they worked shoulder to shoulder with local members of the church in Ibarra, finishing the stairwell and starting on the sealing of the building. Later they helped with the preacher's living quarters in Tuquerres, Colombia's (10,975 Ft high), highest town.

The cold weather and lack of oxygen at that height did not faze them. They carried brick and cement loads up one or two flights of stairs, built a wash basin, finished some walls, installed windows and left everything prepared for the finishing touches. And, of course, these men also taught lessons to the youth groups of three congregations. One baptism resulted from their teaching the last Sunday in Ibarra.

The fruit of these efforts is beyond measure. The fellowship with the local church, the mutual encouragement that all receive from the joint effort, and especially the spiritual growth that results in generating committed Christians that are loving and willing to work and serve. Several of the adult building masters had tears in their eyes when these young men left.

Mason Parker, one of the young men in the team said: "I thought we were the ones that were going there to encourage them, but it's the other way: I am more encouraged than ever to continue working for the Lord by seeing their joyful commitment to the Lord in spite of their living conditions that are not like they are here."

Their presence will be felt among the ones in South America for a long time. Everyone there wants them to come back. And I think the ones here are willing to go back to Ecuador and Colombia. God blessed this effort.

Robert Miranda



Preparing mortar, laying brick, hauling gravel in near freezing weather, 11,000 Ft above sea level in Tuquerres, Colombia.



Anthony, Eduardo & Landon working on the sealing of the Ibarra, Ecuador church building.