

A Blessing To The Nations

...impacting the world for Jesus

Upcoming Trips!

El Salvador-May 2012 and Guatemala-June 2012

Dear Friends,

As we prayed about the strategy for Latin America in 2012 for A Blessing To The Nations, Charlene and I felt we were to teach ACTS 12:1-18. In the 12th chapter of Acts, James, the brother of Jesus, had just been killed, becoming a martyr. Peter had been thrown in prison because Herod saw it pleased the Jewish people. The Bible says that the people of the church were praying earnestly; Acts 12:5. Only when the church prayed earnestly for Peter was there an angel sent to release him. It says a light preceded him then (smote) hit him on the side, stood him up and then the angel said " put on your shoes, gird your garments and follow me".

In two of the churches in Guatemala in which we preached this quarter, the pastors of the churches have been gunned down in the streets by gangs. Pastor Ronny was only 35, and Pastor Anthony was 30. Both of them left behind a wife and kids. A Blessing To The Nations has been called to obey God. Many of our assignments have us working regularly in the dangerous places like these. This year we plan to include El Salvador, another hard place, but we know we are called to these countries. It's time the church begins to pray intently for all of their pastors, evangelists, teachers and missionaries in the field! We humbly ask for your prayers as we welcome the opportunity to go back into the field to hold up the arms of all the pastors.

Guatemala

Jose- While on our last trip to Guatemala, we went to see a man named Jose. Jose had witnessed his best friend (Pastor Ronny) being killed in the streets of Guatemala; presumably by other gang members. Jose had gone on a long drug binge and was fearfully on the edge. Before Jose's friend died he had done everything to encourage Jose to receive Jesus. Jose was very close to receiving Jesus, when his friend was gunned down. God allowed me to intervene at this time, but I knew it was Pastor Ronny, Jose's friend, who planted many seeds of salvation that took root. Jose received Jesus that night. We taught Jose for an hour or so and reminded the enemy had no longer legal ground to harass this young man anymore. We were able to minister, pray, and disciple this young man; proclaiming him to be under the blood covenant of Jesus Christ. Like many of us, Jose felt unworthy of Christ's love, and needed to be shown that Jesus considers him worthy to die for. When Jose gave his life to Christ, he gave many young people, who were emulating him, the courage to follow him in his footsteps. In this way, we begin to see the breaking of the vicious cycle, and the return of many to Jesus Christ.

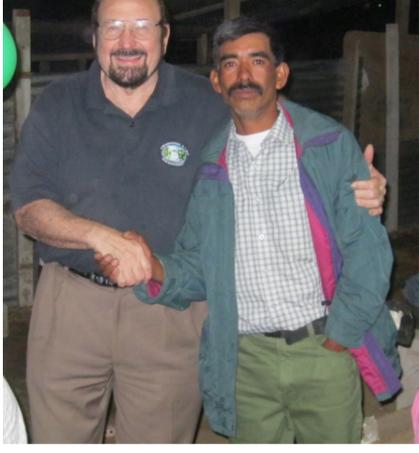
Update-Since we wrote this article, we were notified that Jose was shot and killed by a 14 year old gang member while visiting his mother in his old city.



Pastor Gary leading Jose to Christ.

As our eyes met on the streets of Barcenous, I asked God to give me an opportunity to talk to this man about Jesus. My team had other places of ministry for me to visit first, and I feared I would not reach the man with "sad eyes". At the end of the day, however, we went to a house where a man had requested a visit. I immediately recognized him as the man with whom my eyes had locked. I knew this was a meeting prearranged by God himself. I always ask for divine appointments, and this one had the finger of God written all over it! While I prayed for discernment from the Lord, I noticed he had washed his hair and cleaned up for this meeting. I clearly knew what to tell him! It is something that many struggle with, the idea that God wants us to come to him just as we are. God will do the rest of the "cleaning up process". Gustavo realized that Jesus accepted him in his "unclean" state. Later that night, Gustavo was delivered from his drinking problems, and surrendered his life to Jesus!

Gustavo



AWANA

On missionary night we were invited to a local church to tell them about our ministry. This was the fourth year in a row we've been able to teach a group of AWANA kids. It is always exciting to see the enthusiasm from the young people who have a desire to learn how to serve God. One of the basic themes of our ministry is to learn the word of God, believe the word of God, and then quote the word of God. We believe that we are helping ignite a fire in our youth, so that they may help spread the gospel of Christ!



Cherry Blossom Festival



This quarter we had the opportunity to have an evangelism booth called the **God Mobile** at the Cherry Blossom Festival, in Conyers Georgia. Six businessmen came for the weekend, and helped by sharing their faith. For many this was the first time they shared their faith first hand and led others to the Lord. I have no doubt that these men will remember this weekend for quite some time. The event resulted in over 100 salvations from all walks of life. We have plans to participate in more of these local fairs, as well as some major state fairs in the fall. As more information becomes available on these events we will inform you. We welcome you to be a part of any of the outreaches. Pray and ask God how you may serve with A Blessing to the Nations!

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