

latin american



missions board

THE **lamb** NEWSLETTER

*... and I beheld
the Lamb of God
going forth among
the children of men.*

First Nephi 3:82

January 2007 • Issue 12

*“And Jesus said unto them, Go ye into all the world,
and preach the Gospel to every creature”*

—Mark 16:14

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the work,

Let me thank each of you for your prayers and financial support. It is because of your support that we are able to do what we do. In the world we live in it is sometimes easy to get discouraged, but there is so much to do even though we seem so unimportant at times and so ineffective. Everywhere there seems to be contention and strife. How much easier it would be to just sit back and do nothing. But then I am reminded of the multitudes who have not heard the Angel message, the many who do not know the love of Christ, so how could I be so unkind, so unloving to those that have not heard, when God has been so good to me. Perhaps you feel the same way. I believe with the Spirit of God guiding and directing L.A.M.B. and your continued support, there is nothing we cannot do or no need we cannot meet.

I would like to give you a quick overview for the upcoming year. The L.A.M.B. board has made a decision to try and be faithful to the admonition found in Titus 3:9; avoid contention and strife whenever possible and focus on the work. We are currently working on our budget for the coming year. The field is truly white and ready to harvest, so we are trying to respond to the many requests for ministry throughout Latin America as best we can. We are planning for one extended missionary trip to Peru and other countries, as well as continued support for Honduras, Belize, and Mexico. In addition to the budgeted items, Brother Steve Schultz has put together a special projects list that you can view in this edition of our newsletter. Please give prayerful consideration to helping with these needs as God directs you.

*Once again thanks and God Bless,
Bud Drummond*

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To sign up for the newsletter, please visit our website, www.SpanishMinistries.org, or contact Aaron Rhoads (see Contact Us).

A New Year

by Aaron Rhoads



¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

A new year is before us. I am amazed at how quickly time goes by, and those with more years than I inform me that it goes more quickly with every passing year. It seems that we all take stock this time of year and resolve to go on a diet, or correct one bad habit, or do one thing differently in the new year. We try to do the same thing this time of year with regard to LAMB. We have spent our last few meetings laying out our plans for the new year, preparing a new budget to match the new plans. A good self-evaluation is not complete without seriously considering criticisms made against you to determine if there is any credence in the claims, or if there is some action which would better avoid confusion in the future.

One criticism against LAMB this year was that the priesthood in Honduras was committing Priestcraft by paying pastors, and that we were supporting it with full knowledge. A great conspiracy was being committed against the saints of the Restoration! We were dealing with whether or not Honduras was going to boycott ministers who supported the Conference of Branches so we didn't take time in the moment to do more than reply with an explanation of what was really happening in Honduras and support for those actions in scripture. I'm sure you've read the explanation, and you'll recall that it was clear that there were at least two methodologies supported by scripture, as well as some ambiguity in the interpretation of those methodologies. So in our consideration of the year we have spent some time trying to identify if there is anything we could do better in the way we reimburse the expenses of our missionaries or in the way we support their families while they're gone.

To address one side of the equation we're requiring a little more detailed accounting from the missionaries each month. You will recall that we put a certain amount of trust in the priesthood as a whole in Honduras for reviewing the detailed of accounting from the missionaries and simply providing us with a summary each month. Going forward we're asking for the line-item details each month instead of just the summary. Our reason for only requiring a summary was that we felt that our brothers in the priesthood in Honduras would be better able to identify if there was impropriety than ourselves from so far away. How would we here in the United States determine whether or not the person really went on the trip, or whether the amount spent on gas and food was reasonable? I'm sure you can see the dilemma. However, on the flip side, it probably is better to have the detailed accounting so that if there ever was question we could point to their report and say "well, they reported spending this much for food and this much for lodging, and this much for travel, and the family received this much in support while the

missionary was away from home."

In all honesty, this wasn't really a new discussion for us. We give careful consideration to how the missionary work is conducted every year, and have specifically considered the accounting aspect multiple times. We have been hesitant to take this step previously, largely because of the inability to really know any different than what was reported to us so what does it matter if we have to trust the summary or we have to trust the details they send us . . . it is no different. There is a benefit of seeing the details, however, and that is that we can at least keep track of trends and identify if one line item is overly large one month as compared to other months. However, the other factor that caused us to hesitate implementing this before was that we did not want to place too heavy a burden on the missionaries who have a large enough job as it is simply to feed their families. Our main concern is to help the missionary in whatever way we can so that they are free to go and spread the good news. Still, due to the concerns we thought it best to ask of them a little more detailed accounting going forward.

If that was the only problem in the mission field these days I'd feel very satisfied and say praise the Lord because things were looking good. But, it isn't the only problem. We are never without disagreements in the mission field. Someone doesn't like the way you're doing things so they decide to setup their own shop and do things the right way! No doubt there will be someone else who will come forward and say that requiring extra accounting from the missionaries in Honduras was completely wrong, and will be pounding the pavement for support. This is nothing new, any time we don't like what's going on in the Restoration the answer is "start a new group!"

I hope that if this situation arises that you would be willing to speak up and ask that people support the order that is already in place, little though it is. If you don't like the direction we're going, come talk with us. We value the input of every person who has an interest in the work, but I'll give you fair warning: we might ask you to help out a bit. :-)

There is more work than we can do by ourselves. Goodness knows that starting a new group isn't the answer . . . we only dilute our effectiveness by starting new groups at every disagreement. Come share your opinions and lend a helping hand. Together we can see that the gospel is spread to every part of the world.

The Lord has commissioned the Elders in their various offices to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every kindred, tongue and people . . . and they could use your support. Join with us as we endeavor to fulfill this calling to the best of our abilities.

*In Gospel Bonds,
Aaron Rhoads*

Inspired Version Update

One of the important projects within Latin American ministry is the preparation of the Inspired Version in Spanish for the covenant people. Various people, for years have applied themselves to this project, but recently in the last 2 years, Phil and Cherie Tandy have taken the lead in the project, soliciting input on ideas, choice of words in preparing that all-important book of scripture, which the Mormon church also does not have in Spanish.

We rejoice to tell you that all of Genesis and the four gospels have been translated, and some of this has already been reviewed for appropriateness and accuracy. A short-range goal is to print copies for all the priesthood and prepared members in a scripture-size booklet form of the 4 gospels and Genesis, to include an appendix of important other verses. A completion of the entire Bible into the Inspired Version would literally take years, with the current manpower available. With this format, our brethren should have no reason to distrust.

We are planning to prepare the initial printing of the current text to be completed before conference in April. Meanwhile, the brethren continue to proceed with the editing and further translation. May you join us in prayer for discernment and oneness and God's blessings as we proceed with this important project.

Concert in January

We're holding another fundraising concert this month to benefit LAMB, ARM, and SEAAM, we hope you'll come! The previous concerts were so well received, and we received so many requests to do it again, that we decided to do it again this year on January 26, 2007 at 7 pm at the Colbern Road Restoration Branch.

This time we're going to do it a little differently. Instead of holding three concerts, one for each board, we are holding a single concert with three artists and will split the proceeds evenly between all three.

We're thinking about making this an annual event. Let us know what you think after the concert and we'll plan accordingly.

See you there!

New Buildings Update in Honduras

Due to the loving assistance of many people who traveled to Honduras earlier this year, and those who work there, the three buildings that are under construction in Honduras are nearing completion. The work in Mogote is all but finished and according to reports, the work in San Nicolas is nearing completion.

The chapel in Jardines involved more foundation work than originally calculated, and the building progress has stopped due to lack of funds. They have yet to put on the roof.

We praise God that the saints in each of these places will be able to enjoy meeting in new buildings, and for the loving assistance of their fellow saints.

Please continue to pray for the onward progress of the work, and that they will be blessed from heaven with a harvest to meet in these buildings. We invite you to please continue to assist with this work, for the advancement of the cause of the Kingdom among this remnant people. Thank you for assisting us in developing the work in Honduras.

For more information or donations, please write:
LAMB
PO Box 4085
Independence, MO 64051



THE RESTORATION GOSPEL SPREADS IN SOUTH AMERICA

by Gary Metzger



In 2001, the web-site spanishministries.org was born. Through the sacrificial efforts of Diana Hughes, this ministry has now allowed over 50 persons in Latin America to receive the Book of Mormon and study materials of the Restoration by mail. The work was founded in Peru through the website in 2004, due to now Elder Hugo Flores. The work has been established and is on the verge of expanding into many villages through the hundreds of contacts made through the ministry of Teacher Roque Gutierrez. There are more than 50 interested persons in that category. He also meets monthly with 40+ university students in a testimony service. There are over 50 persons in that category.

As I traveled among the members, many anguished at the thought of not being able to communicate regularly with us, and the great need for spiritual food in our absence. Thus the idea of a weekly "Sunday School Class" on the internet was born. Each week, a class is sent online, so the church in all parts of Latin America can study, united in the Word of God.

While visiting the work in Peru this summer I was allowed to visit with the pastor of the Community of Christ in Callao, Peru. We shared about the Book of Mormon, the scriptures that support it from the Bible and its importance to the work in the restoration of the House of Israel in Latin America. He allowed me to share two times in their branch and I rejoiced at the desire he had to study the Book of Mormon after our visit. Brother Roque shared that he had been employed temporarily by the government and had visited with people in 17 different villages. As a result, there are about 75–100 persons very inter-

ested in hearing more of the gospel. He even had a chance to preach to a camp of individuals very engrossed in the things of the world and one evening some 90 people bowed down before the Lord in tears, and asked for forgiveness.

After sharing in Peru, I arrived in Buenos Aires to visit an ex-Community of Christ member, who desired to share much about the Book of Mormon. I visited with him and with his family in his home. He desired to be baptized, and greatly loves the Book of Mormon. His mother is from Israel and he loves his Israelite heritage and the Book of Mormon is precious to him. A future visit to his city will enable him and his family to be a part of the work.

I crossed over into Uruguay and visited Mauricio Capotte in Montevideo. He is a young ex-Mormon who contacted us over 3 years ago expressing desire to know of the Restoration. Soon after we began to share, he announced his desire to be baptized, but needed some time to prepare certain things and talk to certain individuals. That same day, we went together to visit a man named Massima Colla, in

the north part of Montevideo, who was leading a small church group. He had been Mormon as well. He has studied the scriptures very well and is interested in building up the restoration with Mauricio. The seeds of the gospel message took root and we look forward to follow-up ministry in this area in the future to establish the work among them.

After leaving Uruguay, I entered Brazil. I went to visit with José Medeiros, an ex-Community of Christ pastor who is studying the various divisions in the Restoration branch movement, and is becoming



Lucinaldo Bezerra

more serious about making a decision. We met a year ago as well. He invited me to his home to meet his family. After sharing about the progress of the work in the world, I left his house, and after a 20 hour bus-ride, I arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where I was met by Lucinaldo Bezerra, the individual who had received testimony of the truth of the Restoration by a spiritual dream earlier in the year. He met me at the bus terminal and we rejoiced together in the truths of the gospel.

Then next day he introduced me to his friend, Wagner, who was also interested. We went to see him during his lunch hour the next day and planned for a "church service" that night in my hotel room. The three of us met for service, and after sharing in testimony and teaching, Wagner placed his head in his hands and began to weep. After praying for him a short while, he told us, "As I walked in this evening the Spirit of God was placed upon me like the armor of God." It grew until he was overcome by the Lord's presence. We then planned for Lucinaldo's baptism, and we knew that Wagner was also being led in that direction, but knew nothing of why and who we are. Wagner was nice enough to find us a swimming pool close to his work for us to rent, and we held the baptismal service on August 11, 2006—the first member of the Restoration branches in Brazil. Afterwards, we visited in Wagner's house with his wife and 8-month old baby, and they came to know what is the restoration and why authority was lost to the Earth. He has since e-mailed me and shared that they are very interested in the work, and we praise God for the seeds of faith that were planted in their hearts by the power of the Spirit. The work in Brazil will grow, and may we pray for the Lord to send others to further plant seeds in these areas, for the fields are truly ripe unto harvest. Pray with us for the Lord to place this mission on their hearts, and also upon those who need to help support it financially.

The way for the work in South America to prosper is for a missionary (and wife/team) to go for at least two months to live among the people and disciple them. Pray about what you can do to assist in the growth of the work in South America. Is the Lord calling you to go or to assist? Let us know of your visions, dreams and goals for the work.

Write us or send donations to: LAMB, PO Box 4085 Independence, MO 64051. Thank you for laboring together with LAMB, in the ministry in South America, a large land with much potential. ■

DOLLARS AND SAINTS

by Steven Schultz



South America has over 400 million people and nearly 7 million square miles of land. Add to that Mexico (100 million people and 2 million square miles of land) and all of Central America and you see the challenge of taking the gospel to the Heritage Peoples of the Book of Mormon lands. Our bare-bones budget of \$39,000 this year looks small by comparison. Regardless, we have Ministry Priorities that require your involvement. Congregations, businesses and families, please pray about funding these needs which are not in our budget nor our bank account:

- 1** Leaking roof needs replacing: Concepcion del Sur Congregation, Honduras **\$1500**
- 2** Leaking roof needs replacing: Ocote Congregation, Honduras **\$1500**
- 3** Complete the Church construction: Jardines Congregation, Honduras **\$2000**
- 4** Full Time Youth Program, Honduras Congregations **\$1500**
- 5** South America Evangelism **\$4000**
- 6** Saint Education for Self-Sufficiency **\$2500**
- 7** 1–3 Couples as Resident Missionaries in Latin America Countries (your choice) **Priceless!**

Please identify your preference to be honored and give generously to His missionary work. Your partnership and prayers are our most important tool. May God bless you all richly.

*LAMB Treasurer,
Steven Schultz, C.M.A.*

MEET ROQUE GUTIERREZ

by Gary Metzger



In the mountains of Abancay, Peru lives a teacher in the restoration named Roque. He found the gospel in January, 2005, through a co-worker named Hugo Flores, an elder in the Restoration Branches. Roque had spent various years serving the Lord in different churches, including the Mormon church. When he was baptized, testimony was soon given to the visiting ministers that he was called to the office of teacher. When I visited him last year, I challenged him to exercise his faith and to grow in service to the Lord, as there are so few members in all of Peru. He has spent the last year doing just that, and magnifying the name of Jesus Christ.

Life is difficult for the Peruvian people. Steady jobs are scarce. He now has the job of a taxi driver for the night shift. A few months ago there came a day when they needed to earn 130 soles (Peruvian money) in one night's work for his niece to be able to take her test at school the next day (having dues paid, etc.). That day, the taxi owner brought the taxi 45 minutes early to his house because there was not much business and he was frustrated. Roque knew the Lord needed to especially bless him for his niece's and his sister's sake, who live with him. As soon as Roque began to drive, he immediately had passengers, and wherever he would let them off, another rider would be close by. His taxi really never stopped for about 8 hours. He passed by downtown where many other taxis were sitting without riders. He made exactly that night the amount of money for his niece's school. They praised the Lord.

Earlier, when Roque was without work, his sister and he fasted over a period of four days for God's help. On the last day, while they poured their hearts out, Roque was contacted by our brother Hugo Flores to meet someone who might be able to give work to him and others in Abancay. He was told to meet this man at a certain time and place. During the day, Roque met a man who needed assistance. He assisted him in getting to various places around town. Eventually Roque said he needed to leave to meet a certain person. The man said he did to. When they exchanged names of whom they were to

meet, they discovered that it was each other they were to meet! The man really had no intention of giving work to persons in Abancay, as he had his own laborers, but when he found the usefulness and integrity of Roque, he invited him to attend the meeting to apply, and Roque was given work that night! Praise God for His mercy and power.

One of the temporary jobs that Roque had this last year was working for the government in preparing different villages for the voting process. He had to walk miles and miles in the Andes mountains without roads or a map to get to these villages. Traveling to one of these places, it rained on him. He became very cold, and realized at that moment that he had forgotten to pray that morning. He found limited shelter for the night, and the next morning as he began to walk, he saw the clouds in the sky and knew that it would soon rain. He cried out to the Lord to hold the rain, as he felt that if he would get wet again, he would surely get pneumonia. The clouds soon parted, and when Roque arrived to the village, they immediately asked him if he was a religious man, as they had not seen that happen before. He used the opportunity to preach the gospel to a group of men that day. He left there with directions to get to the next village . . . some 5 days walk over various summits. As he walked the first day, he saw a dove who would fly before him from time to time, and knew that God was leading him. Then next evening as he slept, he dreamed that God told him, "I have protected you from dangers on one side and evil persons on the other." He awakened and praised God in prayer. On the third day he became very tired. He laid down to rest. During that time, a young man hurried to catch up with him. He came from the last village because a traveler who met Roque on the way, reported to the village who he had met and where he was. They knew he was in danger. So they sent the young man to warn him. When Roque awoke, the young man was at his feet. Soon, after finding out why he had appeared, men on horseback appeared, wearing guns and grenades. They

asked them where they were going, and Roque showed his government credentials and his purpose, and the young man was his assistant.

They realized the benefit, so they asked the two to come to their "camp" in the mountains. When Roque began to explain the process to a group of some 200 men gathered there, he witnessed the killing of 9 persons. They were probably drug lords who didn't know the value of a life . . . their own. One man stood up and said to Roque, "What is your defense?" (As if to say you've seen all this, and why should you live.) Roque stated boldly, "I am a child of God and have no need to fear and no need for a defense. Another man came forward and said, "Say more about that."

Roque began to preach the gospel and after several hours, some 90 persons came forward, bowed down on their knees and cried out with tears unto the Lord, for forgiveness. They stayed there that night, and the next day the men carried Roque and the young man to the next town on horseback and they arrived a day early! Glory to God. The seeds of truth were

planted. While we don't know what happened to those who responded, we praise God that the gospel was preached and hearts were touched . . . by the boldness of your brother Roque.

The young man was so touched by the power of God that he continues to visit our brother when he passes through Abancay. When I arrived to visit Roque this summer, Roque had no Bible, nor funds to buy one. He had given his Bible to someone. I bet you know who. That's our brother Roque.

Roque has a list of some 17 villages where he has planted the seed many times, with more than 150 persons in all. With more watering, he believes many will believe in the fullness of the gospel. Pray for the work in Peru and for the Lord to bring continued ministry to prepare him for greater service and strengthening to the rest of the saints in Peru.

May the Lord of the harvest bring forth workers and raise up the harvest in Peru. Has he called you to assist?

Gary Metzger



Roque Gutierrez and his sister, Dina and niece, Dalia.

CONTACT Us

Board Members

Elder Bud Drummond

Chairman
mefdrum@earthlink.net
816-229-3605

Elder Steve Schultz

Treasurer
stevenschultz50@earthlink.net
816-223-3968

Pete Hughes

Elder Jack DeLany

pjdelany@wmconnect.com
816-380-6665

Elder Gary Metzger

gmension@msn.com
816-833-5140

Seventy Juan Reyes

jurece70@att.net.mx

Priest Aaron Rhoads

aaron@rhoads.net
816-554-3544

Assistants to the Board

Mary Drummond

Secretary
mefdrum@earthlink.net
816-229-3605

Brenda Eggert

Newsletter
btdesigns@kc.rr.com
816-246-1402