

The L.A.M.B. Newsletter

Issue 5

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*...and I beheld the Lamb of God
going forth among the children of men.
First Nephi 3:82*



What's Inside

Chairman's Report	p.2
Report from Belize.....	p.3
New Board Members.....	p.3
Letters from Juan.....	p.4
Testimony from Belize	p.5
Report from Honduras.....	p.6
International News.....	p.6
Translation	p.6
Contact Us.....	p.7

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Chairman's Report

by Mike Meier

The first quarter found the board busy with preparing budgets for operations in Mexico Belize, and Honduras as well as missions to South America this summer. Several contacts are to be visited. As always this time of year is most hectic as our budget is presented to the Conference of Restoration Elders for their support. The Latin American Missions Board is affiliated with the conference and acts in conjunction with the Evangelism Council as the missionary representative for the Latin American missionary field.

During this quarter the work in Honduras has continued to grow and the funding is now in place for the construction of two new houses of worship. The brothers and sisters have raised their portion of the required amount with the remaining funds coming from LAMB. We are most excited to see this progress. The dedicated ministry of the Elders in Honduras has led to several recent baptisms. The Honduran family reunion for next December is already being planned for and the congregations there are beginning to put funds aside that all might attend this reunion.

The work in Mexico has slowed and Seventy Reyes continues to provide ministry to the brothers and sisters there. We are hopeful that the new Youth Service Corp will be able to assist with work there later this year.

The work in Burrel Boom Belize has continued to grow and Elder Lowell and Sister Kim Augenstein and Elder Val Gross just returned from a months ministry there. Their report can be found later in this newsletter.

I was privileged to be in Burrel Boom in February for another baptism and ministry.

During this visit the Lord provided direction for the branch there and this testimony can be found later in this newsletter.

The work continues forward and as always we are in need of your prayerful support that God's word may be shared with these covenant people. As always your financial support is appreciated as this important work will not go forward without financial assistance.

We of LAMB are seeking workers desiring to serve God in Latin America for extended service. There are many opportunities for service and if you have desires to serve in Latin America, I would challenge you to pray and fast for Gods direction and then contact any LAMB member for assistance with applying for service. The need for workers is great as many areas are requesting assistance.

Speaking for the board I would say thank you to all those who have supported LAMB both prayerfully and financially in the past year. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless you all in your desires to assist in this important work.

In Gospel Bonds
Elder Michael G. Meier
LAMB Chairman

Youth Service Corp

A reorganization of the Youth Missionary Corp, this new group has a special focus of helping youth find areas where they can be of service.

Already they are trying to put together a team to take a Bible School down to Matamoros like the Atherton Zion's League did a few years ago.

by Lowell Augenstein

My wife, Kim and I were in Belize from February 27, 2004 until March 30, 2004. We stayed with Dick and Bobbi Smith in Burrell Boom. It was a very busy time. Val Gross was also with us. He stayed with Antonio Mayora and family.

During the month we did a lot of home visiting. In part or in full, I showed the "Go Ye and Teach" twenty times. We blessed six young children, had several requests for the ordinance of laying on of hands for healing, had one marriage, baptized three adults, and ordained one Elder. Attendance on Sunday mornings was between 20 and 40 every week. Evening services usually had between 10 and 15. Prayer service attendance was usually about 15. Towards the end of our stay, nearly the whole village was sick and Dick and I were both in bed for about four days.

Our ministry extended into the physical needs as well. When we arrived there was a pickup truck that was cannibalized by local mechanics. It was a much needed form of transportation so that became a prime task. When people found out we could do more than carry the Spirit of God, they found other needs. First, the congregation wanted to help an old man who had just been baptized. His house was in desperate need of paint on the inside. Money from the Oblation Fund was used to buy salt, powdered lime and chalk coloring. Many from the branch showed up Saturday morning to move all from the house and paint the walls. The women prepared the fellowship lunch which was also a birthday party for Val Gross including the piñata. A lady's house needed some electrical work. Money from the Oblation Fund was used to buy materials. It required one full day of labor to fix 5 lights. Since she asked for help and it was not done as a branch project, I asked her to pay for one-half of the

New Board Members

We are pleased to announce the addition of three members to our board!

Elders Carlos Ulloa of Outreach, Bud Drummond of Colbern Road, and Joe Hale of Missionary Branch have all agreed to serve with us in the Latin American field.

We look forward to their contributions in moving this work forward in these latter days.

expense. She was more than happy to do that.

Kim and Bobbi worked with the women. They held classes on nutrition, cleanliness, candle making, counted cross stitch, teaching young ladies about chastity, offering opportunities for fellowship, sharing recipes and fun. The women really enjoyed these.

The people opened their hearts and homes to us. It was a good break for Dick and Bobbi as well. They are both very tired. It was a timely visit.

Lowell Augenstein

Letters from Juan

by Juan Reyes

Dear Brethren:

February 17th

It was very cold in Matamoros but we enjoyed our missionary trip by visiting those good people who were waiting for our visit. This time Emilio and Berta said that they were praying for us to have a good trip to Matamoros. Saturday was called the Dia del Amor (Love Day), except that it was so cold. Here in Saltillo was not like that when we left; We did not see Lala but Neto her son was there and very kind paid attention to talk out about the Church. Irma was not in her home but her children received us with much love; they were not able to go to church and when the weather is so cold we do not blame them. Socorro was visiting her relatives in Monterrey Ruben and Martina have not come back yet from their new house in some other colony in Matamoros Lucas is lonely again, Rossy moved back to her parent's home. Her father Lino always says that we are very welcome to their home to teach them the Restoration Gospel anyway, Lucas was very courageous in the Church service on Sunday; whenever I am there he presides and I teach and preach. The attendance was 9 persons and a little 8 year old girl named Lucero one of Rosita's friends (Rossy). We did not sense how cold it was during the service, but when we finished we discovered that we all were trembling of cold. Really the Spirit of God was with us in that small group of His children.

March 9th

Our missionary trip to Matamoros this last week end was good. All the Church members are in good health and the weather is warm, those people Lowell visited will begin to show as soon as the weather improves. Our classes and in each home make the people to become more interested in the what we call Miraculous Restoration. We had an attendance of 17,

Rossy and children were with us Florentino and family also; 7 people participated taking part of the Lord's Supper.

March 20th

It was a marvelous experience to be with those people in Matamoros for our a Wednesday night prayer service in Col. Sec. 16. With much love they prayed and shared their testimonies and declared that it was their great joy to participate in a Church activity like that. With tears in their eyes they shared their testimonies about the many blessings which they have received from our God. This make us to plan in the future at least once in while to have activities like that. In their prayers the desire was clear for more souls to come to repentance and join the Church through baptism.

April 19th

All the Church members in Matamoros are well except for some flue (gripe). We visited them all last week and had our Church service starting with our two groups classes. I was in charge of the class for adults and Tina in charge of the Children's class. Our attendance was 12, Lucas presided and I preached. The Spirit of our Lord again was with us as we talked about baptism also and Rossy Luca's daughter in law as well as Rosita were much interested on that as they want to be baptized soon. We participated all together of the great blessing of teaching the classes and of course answering questions having to do with the Elder's Conference and I informed them that the Spirit of God was with us as we enjoyed from Sunday through Friday of the presence of even reconciliation with our brethren and with our Heavenly Father.

We go L.A.M.B. carrying the ensign of the Restoration to those peoples who are waiting to be fed with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and may God bless us.

Testimony from Belize

by Mike Meier

While on a trip to provide ministry in Burrel Boom, Belize during February 2004 the following experience was had.

Being firm as to the reasons for this trip I was none the less continuing in preparation desiring to know what God would have shared in the Sunday ministry for His people.

On Saturday the 28th I was awakened shortly before dawn and after prayerfully beginning the day, I felt led to go for a walk. During my morning prayers I had asked God what it was that He desired for this people to know regarding their service to Him. Knowing full well that the Elders are to preach nothing but repentance to this generation I earnestly sought direction and found myself standing in front of a very beautiful tree with dark green leaves and covered with a vine with beautiful yellow flowers.. As I stood admiring this tree I was enveloped by Gods Spirit.

Having seen both this type of tree in Belize before, and knowing that the vine, though beautiful, eventually covers the tree and kills it I was unsure of what God was trying to show me.

As the sun rose I praised God for His Spirit and asked again what do you wish for this people? The Spirit left me standing .looking at the tree, wondering what God was trying to tell me. Nothing came. Frustrated I walked back towards the Smith home and continued to petition the Lord for understanding.

Sunday morning found me awake before daylight again and after morning prayer I again felt led to walk. Again I found myself before the same tree and as I asked God what was so important about this tree, His Spirit again enveloped me and the following was given to my mind.

The beautiful tree represented all of Gods creation and the vine represented the sin of this world and that the sins of the world though sometimes seeming beautiful and enticing as the vine are in fact strangling the world. I immediately asked God how can I explain this to your people with the answers for their salvation? As I walked seeking answers my mind was taken to the Book of Romans, chapters 12-15. Having read this many times I asked God to show me how I could explain what He desires for the people to know. Having walked a couple of miles praying, my attention was drawn to a very small flower, no bigger than a pencil eraser, orange in color and wrapped in a hard red outside shell. As the sun warmed the plant the shell opened exposing the beautiful orange flower. Inside the flower was a very tiny black seed. As I asked God what this meant my mind was again taken to Romans and God spoke to my mind saying" the strong shall protect the weak and allow their seed to grow" I was given to understand that the sin of the world can be challenged and defeated if we as a people will work together, with the strong protecting the weak, putting our independence aside and becoming one. The flower was the perfect example with the hard red shell (the strong) protecting the orange flower (the weak) so the seed (the tiny black seed) can grow. God was calling His people (the tree) to repentance and to forsake the sins of the world so they won't be consumed by those sins (the vine).

How my heart leapt with joy at this analogy from God. Sharing this message later with His people the same Spirit that had previously enveloped me was in abundance and a testimony to all of Gods mercy and goodness.

Elder Michael G. Meier

Report from Honduras

by Gary Metzger

The work in Honduras continues to bear fruit. In the last 6 months, three new works have begun. Elder Antonio Orellana is visiting Laguna Seca once a week, where 30 people are attending. He is also leading services twice a week in Ocoman, where a just a few services were held years ago. These same people looked him up this last month and he is holding services with 18 people on Monday and Friday each week. Chuck Sperry and other elders are visiting a municipality called Meambar twice a month. Elder Socorro Vasquez, the

International News

Internet contacts have produced 3 families in South America who have requested visits to further investigate the gospel. Two families are from the Bogota, Colombia area, and they are awaiting a visit this summer. The other contact is from Peru, and he has already had a revelation granting him the knowledge of the truthfulness of the gospel. He began studying our website, and began to call it "our" church. He then asked the Lord if he was doing right, He was told in the dream by the Lord's voice that he was right. He even saw Gary Metzger in the dream. He had never seen him before. This man's parents are Mormon, and his grandparents are Adventists. He felt the Spirit in neither church, and felt the Spirit come over him when we contacted our Web site.

We request your prayers for the deep-planting and watering of these precious seeds that might be a beautiful harvest this summer.

Translation

Through the diligent efforts of Philip and Cherie Tandy, and Dalia and Eduardo Padillo (Guillermo and Mara Castillo's daughter and son-in-law) editing continues on the Spanish Translation of the Inspired Version. Much of Ron Quick's and others' work is being utilized. Matthew has now been edited, and all four gospels and the first 19 chapters of Genesis have been translated, now ready for editing.

presiding elder in Honduras, continues to visit San Nicolas three days per week and there are now 29 members there.

Fito Leiva continues to hold services in his growing congregation of Santa Cruz, and also visits a new place called Zapote near there.

Moncho Leiva visits many congregations near his home and is studying with two families in Camalote, in between Mogote and El Ocote.

These elders are busy and we praise God for the new members.

There were two men newly ordained to the priesthood on March 27, 2004. Priest Cristino Vasquez was ordained in Jardines, and Carmelo Marquez was ordained from Las Conchas as a Deacon. The total of faithful ministry working in Honduras has now reached 20: 10 elders, 6 priests and 4 deacons.

Gary Metzger

