

latin american



missions board

T H E
lamb
N E W S L E T T E R

October 2005 • Issue 9

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

First Nephi 3:82

“He doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you, for which if ye do, he doth immediately bless you.” — Mosiah 1:58

How often I have found this scripture to be true. And God wants you and I to be a blessing to others. I would like to remind you of a way to accomplish both. To be a blessing to others and to respond to the Lord’s command.

There are so many opportunities to serve the covenant people of Latin America. We of the LAMB board would like to invite those of you that have not yet joined with us, to help take the Angel message to our brothers and sisters to the south. For the Lord calls those “that cannot go to send.” I know not everyone can serve in a foreign mission field, but almost all of us can help by way of sending.

We are in need of several brothers or sisters who would be willing to commit

to a certain amount each month to help us meet our monthly budget.

I also want to tell you about the concert series the Elders Conference Evangelism Council is sponsoring to raise funds for the various missionary groups. Please check with the Conference office for exact dates and location. The one LAMB is hosting is on October 22nd, 2005. The Group, **Green Side Up**, will be one of the groups performing that night, and there are many of you I know, that really enjoy their ministry. There will be no admission charge just a free will offering. So come and join us in fun and fellowship. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

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).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Aaron Rhoads



As you're reading this I hope you can say you've had a good summer, we certainly have. We're especially excited about the work Restoration Camping, Inc. (RCI) did with the youth from around the world. We brought one up from Belize for camp, and there were a few others who came from Mexico. I have been especially impressed with the sacrifices the saints in other countries were willing to make in order to try to attend a youth camp . . . a process we take for granted up here. For example, one of the young girls from Belize spent some time in jail as a result of trying to get her passport so she could come for camp. We are so blessed in our country for the freedoms we possess! Please pray for Erika because as of the time that I'm writing this she is still unable to go home. The situation may not be resolved until the end of the year, with the threat that she may be detained a year beyond that.

The work in South America is continuing to go forward. You'll want to read Gary's article later in this newsletter. We're also continuing to do a lot in Honduras, but they're stable enough that most of the real decision making takes place in their Elder's Council. There are three men there who do missionary work on a very regular basis. In Belize, Dick & Bobbie have done a tremendous work raising up the congregation of Burrell Boom and have a priesthood member who has started a missionary endeavor in Guatamala. *(It must be said that others have also shown interest in prosecuting the work in Guatamala and we are not trying to compete with them. If there is any question then please contact a member of the LAMB board for more detail about this new work.)* Various ones have been through Guatamala in the past and have commented that it is a field ripe for the harvest. We're very excited to see this endeavor blossom into something wonderful.

As is often the case, when you're doing the work of the Lord, adversity is right behind. You might say that the adversity spurs you on. That is a

very positive light to put on the troubles of the adversary. But as missionaries have commented before, "when we do good, evil is ever present." Please keep us in your prayers that the work will be unhindered by the wiles of the devil. While the devil does his worst, we should not confuse the disagreements of the brothers and sisters as the work of the devil. Brothers and sisters in the household of God the world over have butted heads, and yet they remain brothers and sisters. While the church remains in a disorganized state, disagreement abounds. It is fair to say that at least half of our time is spent interacting on issues of disagreement instead of strictly missionary work. We're saddened by this statistic, but we press forward and long for the day when full order is restored. Until that day comes, we will continue to support the missionaries in the field in the best way we know how . . . with lots of prayer and dependence on the Lord Almighty.

As always, we are looking for people to assist in the work . . . with equal emphasis on **going** and **sending**. There are always the few who stand up and say "I'll go" . . . but it always seems like the same few who stand. Is the Lord prompting you to stand up now and be counted? Please give this question your prayerful consideration. There are jobs here as well as abroad. You don't have to be a missionary to help, you just have to have a heart for the people of Latin America.

As we continue in the trying times ahead, our prayers will be with you. Will you continue to keep us in your prayers that we will be able to see every opportunity, and that we will have the wisdom to meet every challenge. We appreciate your prayerful concern, and pray the Lord's blessings for you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Aaron Rhoads, LAMB Chairman

BURRELL BOOM, BELIZE

Van Delivered to Burrell Boom, Belize

Lowell and Kim Augenstein, Ron Wilson and Terry Pickering recently drove a twelve passenger van donated by John Mundy to the Saints in Burrell Boom. Before this, Dick and Bobbi Smith had to make several trips in their own car to pick up Saints for Church and prayer services. It was put to use the very day it arrived to pick up and take home prayer service attendees. Everyone was excited.

We were happy to see Dick and Bobbi's new house with much more room to accommodate the larger attendance to services. There were about 35 present for prayer service on August 31. Dick reports that on some Sundays, they have as many as 70 in attendance. That would make for a very crowded room.

It was wonderful to hear the testimony of Ruth who was able to come to the Mammoth Camp at Graceland. She was so excited

about what she learned she went home to start a Zion's League group and enjoys working with the youth. Terry Pickering was also at Mammoth Camp and he will help Ruth with classes and projects for Zion's League.



Ron Wilson, Kim Augenstein, Terry Pickering

Lowell and Terry will be teaching the Principles of the Gospel plus classes on Zion and stewardship. They will be in Belize until September 22. Please keep them in your prayers. Bobbi Smith has been quite sick and also needs prayers.

We had a very interesting trip down there. We appreciate so much the prayers offered in our behalf. Even though we were not lost, we needed the prayers at the very time the message went out. We praise God for providing protection for us because of the response of Saints around the country.

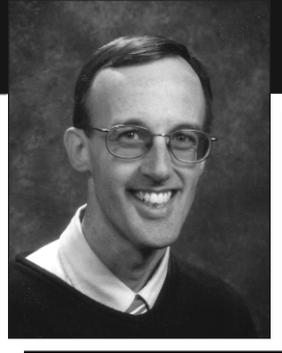
A big thanks to all of you.

Kim Augenstein



The Restoration Gospel Expands In South America

by Elder Gary Metzger



On June 25, 2005, elders David Bates, Guy Humphrey and myself, with Guy Humphrey's son Ben, all went to Peru to minister to the saints. Daniel Smith is now living in Cañete, Peru (just south of Lima) and we were able to visit him and his fiancée Susana. They gave us breakfast. While eating, Susana's brother-in-law, Wilfredo, came in and immediately we sensed it was time to share. We were able to share many testimonies with them.

We traveled to Arequipa where some of our newest saints were baptized in February, through the ministry of our two Honduras elders who visited them. Teófilo and his son Elvis were there to receive us and we spent many hours sharing in the gospel. The highlight was the last service we had when shared of the Kingdom of God and Zion and shared in song and prayer. It was a true commitment service.

Our next stop was to visit the saints in Puno, where the work began a year before. However, there was a strike and the bus lines were unable to cross the picket lines. We were told by one bus line that they had a bus awaiting us on the other side if we could get there. So we were taken by a taxi and were allowed to cross the picket line. The bus was there, even as they had said. For about 1 hour many of us sat on the bus, waiting for others to arrive to fill it up so we could leave. I asked those around if they would like to hear the word of God preached. Many said yes, so I went into the front of the bus and shared the restoration gospel and testimonies for about 30-45 minutes. Even people outside of the bus were listening, and after preaching, I handed out many tracts to those who were interested. It was a joy a few moments later to look out the window and see a woman sitting on a rock, reading Joseph Smith Tells His Own Story.

We arrived in Puno and shared with Teófilo's wife (the mother of our brother Hugo Flores, who was ordained an elder this year.) María. We spent a couple of hours in testimony and uplifting our sister, and Hugo's wife, Luz. They desired for their

family, which is scattered in 4 cities, to be able to be gathered for spiritual and economic strength.

We appreciate your prayers to that end.

We visited the floating islands on Lake Titicaca, and due to the tracts in my coat pocket, people asked for them, and even asked me to pray for some of their sick when they learned we were Christians.

We left Puno and headed for Abancay. En route, we visited Cuzco for a day. We saw many ruins which showed perfect stone architecture, using large trapezoidal-shaped stones, cut to fit together perfectly without mortar. Then brother Guy Humphrey returned by plane to the US.

Our next stop was Abancay, where our two ministers live. We spent much time with our newly ordained teacher, Roque Gutierrez. We had class on how to defend and teach the Book of Mormon and while sharing about the prophesied blessings from Genesis 48 and 49 and Deuteronomy 33, the power of the Holy Spirit descended upon us and we both wept. Roque had never felt the Spirit of God like that, and it was a huge blessing to see the Lord confirm for him the truth of the record. We spent several days visiting the people in the hills above their home where Hugo and he have spent many, many days visiting. There are some 8-10 families in various stages of preparation to obey the gospel and we rejoiced to be able to share with some of those. It was a joy to see Roque's love for and belief in the restored gospel. Many times we would be sitting by the edge of the road and someone else would come by and before long, we would be sharing the gospel for about 30 minutes while they sat or stood. It brought great joy to us. Peru is 80% Catholic to this day, and many asked the differences between the two churches.

We took a quick trip to nearby Andahuaylas to visit Hugo's brother, Percy, and a friend named Nelson who had already contacted us by e-mail. We spent about 5 hours with them when they took

us to a lake. Above the lake, were the Sondor ruins of the Incas. We shared under the afternoon sun in front of the ruins about the Lord Jesus and His people who were there before us, and His call upon our lives. The Spirit ministered to them, as both needed to marry the women with whom they were living. Even Nelson, whom we had never met (he is the brother of the mayor of the town) stated that it was not important if there were only two or three of them, the work would begin! What joy to our ears for them to sense the truth and importance of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the important visits we were to make was to the nearby town of Tintay, where Roque and Hugo are considering beginning a trade school for computers, shoe making and driving. Early that morning, I was awakened from a spiritual dream and laid there for hours in meditation and the Lord began to reveal to me that we would be sharing with six people that morning, just as how the work began with six in the days of Joseph Smith. The Lord blessed our trip in a taxi with a Catholic who had a figure of a "saint" hanging from his mirror. We began to share about the word of God and the traditions of men. He was humbled by the word, and he began to ask many questions. The entire trip there and back was consumed by our sharing and he asked where we were meeting, and it didn't matter if there were only two or three, the Lord was with us!

When we arrived in Tintay, we met with the mayor and his 5 counselors—even as I had been told. We shared with them our desire to help them learn trades, and learn the gospel of Jesus Christ and showed them The Book of Mormon, which would tell them of how Christ visited their continent years before. All received our news with open arms and we left them scriptures and tracts to read. May the Lord establish His work there. The mayor even offered us the use of an abandoned Catholic church building on a hill overlooking the city.

Our stay in Abancay ended with a beautiful

sacrament service on Sunday morning with Roque and his sister Dina, who is also a member. We were able to bless her daughter, Dalia, as well.

We left them in Abancay; we left David in Cuzco to return to the USA, and Ben and I continued on south to Argentina. We stopped in Puno to encourage the saints there one more time, and by God's grace, our member from Desaguadero (borders with Bolivia) was there, and we were also able to visit him, and he gave us instructions how to find his house to visit his wife, Hugo's sister.

We arrived in Posadas, Argentina and had to opportunity to share with three people in our hotel room. Damián, a 30-year-old mormon was very receptive to the gospel. He had been touched by the Spirit with 3Nephi 7:34 before

in his life, and as we shared that message again, he was assured we spoke the truth.

He had a Mormon friend of his there as well, Graciela. She also had many questions and was touched by the truth of the word of God. We had great joy in that someone from Brazil came to meet us and he truly had a missionary spirit. He (as well as

Damián) believed the lineage of authority of Joseph III and had seen the apostasy in the latter days and was ready to come to greater light. He returned to Brazil with the commitment to study with his family and in the future to make his covenant in truth.

The Restoration gospel will soon be in Brazil and Argentina. May we pray for these friends.

Ben and I sacrificed many hours on the bus (and planted many seeds there as well) to be able to share, but we were greatly rewarded.

When we returned to Lima, Peru on July 22nd to catch our flight to the US, we met Elder Hugo Flores who was working away from his home for the government for a few months. We spent a few hours with him at the airport before leaving. and spoke of how to expand the work both in Peru and to unite the scattered work in South America. It will happen! Praise God for His work. May we continue to pray for and support its growth.



THANK YOU FOR SUCH FAITHFULNESS

by Elder Steven Schultz



Your Help is Needed Now!

Opportunities are **growing fast** in both Central and South America, and the various missionary groups will be working together to spread the Restoration Gospel. Several missionary trips and priesthood ordinations have taken place in Peru in the past 6 months. We recognize with you the priority given to Christ's Church to take this gospel to the Heritage people, and there are many who are receptive **right now**. Active attendance and church facilities have tripled since 1990!

With less than one one month's funds in the bank, missionary work to The Book of Mormon Peoples will be drastically curtailed. Please pray and encourage others to keep His work going.

Send your generous support today to:

**Latin America Missions Board
c/o the Council of Restoration Elders
500 North Union Street
Independence, MO 64050**

L.A.M.B. is an accounting steward to the Council of Restoration Elders.

My heartfelt thanks and blessing to you all.

*Steven Schultz
LAMB Board Member*

THE WORK IN HONDURAS CONTINUES TO BE BLESSED

The Lord's hand continues to touch the lives of His people in Honduras. Elder Fito Leiva, who was one of the elders who went to Peru in January this year, shared with me a few of the many blessings God has given them in Honduras. The following is from his reports.

Our spiritual labor is not in vain. My daughter Heysel was having nightmares on August 10th, at about midnight. She began shouting and cried. The Spirit of the Lord caused me to get up. I laid on hands in the name of Jesus Christ, and this 7-year-old in a few minutes slept like a princess. I praise God for His mercy and the miracles he performs with his children.

In Santa Cruz, brother Santos Orellana was extremely ill in his house. He called for me in his anguish on July 7th. This was the same day I traveled to Santa Cruz to visit. I arrived at his house and we prayed and I shared with his family. He asked for the laying on of hands with consecrated oil. I did that for him, having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, as he lay there bedridden. We obey what the Lord asks us to do, and to God's glory, the marvelous wonder was that Santos arrived walking to the church on Saturday and gave testimony that Jesus had healed him (The Lord is beautiful).

Also, two girls were presented for a blessing and were healed in the service. We continue testifying and we continue sharing that which God is doing in Santa Cruz.

Elder Gary Metzger

Dear friends,

We started our days with preparation and prayer, then visiting the homes in the neighborhood leaving 22 tracts where they were accepted.

Every afternoon we had classes in a very simple form for members and non-members to understand. These classes ranged from the Principles of the Gospel, the Gathering to Zion, Marriage Counseling, Reconciliation, the Present Apostasy, and the Book of Mormon.

In the evenings we walked to the town square and visited with the retired folks and shared a little of the gospel. We discerned that some were receptive and others just polite. They wished us well and said they knew the Lord would bring us back again.

Every Sunday we had worship services with 15–20 attending, 8–10 of those members.

There were 2 administrations and some private counseling.

The highlight of our trip was during a class with a family attending that had been estranged from the Restoration people for many years. After

attending the classes several days, repentance and forgiveness and reconciliation were tearfully asked for and tearfully accepted. They confessed that they had been touched by the Holy Spirit and converted by the teaching of The Book of Mormon. They asked what they should do. I was led to say, "Repent and sin no more." They remarked that they knew there was something more to the church but were not taught The Book of Mormon or Doctrine and Covenants in the institutional church.

I consider there to be numerous opportunities for others to accept the fullness of the gospel. I hope and pray others will be led to continue ministry to these saints and non-members in the Matamoros area.

Juan and Tina have a great responsibility and burden to drive to give ministry to two groups so far apart. We must pray for their safety and success.

Your brothers in Christ, Manuel and Lowell

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