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missions board

THE LAMB NEWSLETTER

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

First Nephi 3:82

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Report on Inspired Versión Translation

By Dalia Castillo, Phil and Cheri Tandy

Progress is being made on the Spanish Inspired Version. With Dalia's constant help, we have completed the four Gospels, the book of Revelation and the entire book of Isaiah (subject to review). We are almost through working our way through the book of Acts. We hope to finish the entire New Testament by late spring, and print all or part of it some time during this year.

The Spirit of God has given us many evidences of His desire to have this work done. A proof of it is how the Lord has opened a way for Dalia and her family to come and stay for six months and the generosity of the Saints in helping to provide for all their needs. This has enabled the work to be done in a faster and more effective way.

When LAMB first approached us about working on this project, the thought was to print a few hundred copies of an abbreviated Inspired Version that would include Genesis, the four Gospels and then miscellaneous verses—those that were different between the Inspired Version and other bibles. It was suggested later, for a matter of speed, to sub in the rest of the verses from the Reina Valera 1960 version because they were thought to correspond to the Inspired Version.

In many instances, this worked, but we found a few words that didn't exactly show the meaning, nor were as meaningful as other ways of expressing it. Some passages simply were not right. So we began to do more verses and whole chapters. At some point, the complete Inspired Version will have to be done since there is no way to make sense of miscellaneous verses, having most of the context omitted.

We truly believe this is the Lord's work and it wasn't only inspired in English, but it has also been inspired in Spanish. The Lord has given us the understanding of grammar and the language structure that we need, only by His power. Another testimony is to see the power of the Spirit as we translate and as we pray for His presence. There have been innumerable times in which we all didn't agree on something; so we would pray over it and then the answer would come easily, clear and smooth.

The work has been slowed down for lack of proofreaders, as well as for those with special insights to share. Our testimony is that the Lord not only wants it done but done well. We would really appreciate comments before we declare this work complete. We have dedicated our time no matter the necessity, distance or any struggle we have and it has been a pleasure to be part of it and have the Lord provide for us but we know it is a work that involves us all so we need more people to check this work and help us know when it will be ready.

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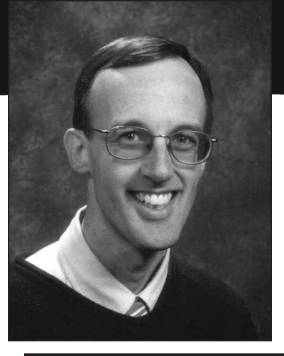
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THE WORK IN SANTA CRUZ, HONDURAS

by Elder Gary Metzger



The work in Santa Cruz has been blessed of the Lord. There are now 25 baptized members, 10 people visiting, with 25 children in attendance as well. The Spirit of God is directing and blessing the work. The work started there many years ago.

In early 1995, Elder Socorro Vasquez and I were riding in the car and we were sharing that we had both had dreams about evangelism the night before. Both dreams were both about Santa Cruz! Later, in March, when we were returning together from San Pedro Sula, having failed to fly that morning to Belize to visit with Arturo, we were on a bus that entered into Santa Cruz. We began that day to visit families there and discovered there were five restoration families living there. One was priest Francisco Alberto.

Weekly visits began, some baptisms occurred and brother Francisco (Chico) was placed as pastor over the small flock. We soon began meeting outside his home in a pole barn that he constructed.

Years later, while the congregation was just gaining momentum, brother Chico suffered a car accident and was killed. It was difficult for the other brothers in Honduras to Santa Cruz.

One day, in about 2000, Fito Leiva had a dream in which Chico appeared unto him (after dying) and said to him, "Feed my sheep." Fito had been born in Santa Cruz. Fito sensed the call was from God to pastor those sheep without a shepherd. So he quit his job and began to travel weekly to Santa Cruz to pastor over that flock and to reach out and evangelize into the community. From there, a church was constructed and the work has continued to grow.

Pastor, Elder Gustavo (Fito) Leiva had a dream in 2007 in which he was on a missionary trip with Elder Antonio Orellana in Los Zorrillos, Choluteca. When they arrived at the church, a group of men armed with sticks came towards them. Fito asked Antonio, "What do we do?" Fito took out his Book of Mormon and raised it to heaven and the people fell to their knees. Fito shares, "I read to them 3 Nephi 9:9-11 (about the ministering the same words of Jesus Christ). I was filled with the Spirit of God. I know that we are in His basic doctrine

because it is true; the stick of Judah and of Joseph: Ephraim and Manasseh his children.

"On August 25, 2006 during church service a visitor came to church and told me that brother Santos Orellana was dying, and I as an elder of the church went to him. When I arrived, his eyesight was fixed, and one person asked me to lay on hands. I did so and my body was filled with the fire of the Spirit of God during the administration and he sat up. To my joy he began to attend church the very next day."

Fito had the following dream on Nov. 15, 2007 about Santiago, Gonzales, who was soon to be baptized. He saw a man enter into the church at Santa Cruz with a book and unordered papers. The man said that there was no High Priesthood (representing the thoughts of the world). Santiago entered the church and said "yes there is," and mentioned Hebrews 5:1, then Fito was awakened.

Santiago, Gonzales was baptized on Nov. 15, 2007. He had the following dream on Nov 22nd. He saw a very tall tree and from the tree hung a rope. He took it and wanted to climb it. He heard a voice that said, "In a short time I will be closer to you all." The rope from above is very similar to what was shown in a dream which Arturo in Belize had many years ago. It represents priesthood authority.

On December 29th, 2007, there were about 30 people present and I got to meet Santiago. He testified of a dream he had just received in which he saw 4 men dressed in white with the word "Gospel" written over their heads. He then heard a voice tell him to read John 13. He seems humble and for real. Praise God for new men! Fito Leiva, the pastor, is assured of a new servant for the Lord in that place.

There is a brother named Joselino Madrid that is a new brother in Christ. Before he was baptized he had a dream on March 25, 2007 in which the Lord was calling him and he walked after the Lord and saw in the road a group of persons dressed in white. He shares, "I felt faith build in me and I began crying. Upon waking I prayed unto the Lord." Later after being baptized he had a series of spiritual dreams in

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A VISIT TO MATAMOROS

by Cherie Tandy

Phil and I were privileged to travel to Mexico after Christmas. We stopped in Matamoros to visit the Ruiz family on December 28-29. Phil held a Sacrament service for them and preached on Sunday morning. About 14 people were in attendance. Phil felt a great liberty to speak about baptism, what it is and the importance of it. He offered to work with anyone who desired to be baptized and to return when they were ready to request baptism. One of the Ruiz sons, Victor, who has shown little interest in the past was the first one at the service with his books open and questions ready to ask. He has some things in his life that he needs to correct. Hopefully this is a sign that he is thinking more seriously than before about what it will take to get his life aligned with the Lord. We visited with several family members before and after the service and also talked with little Rosie and her daughter, Odette.

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November of 2007. On the 3rd he dreamed and saw that the chapel in Santa Cruz was full of pure water and the water entered by the door and the temple was full. He began to play the guitar and brother Fito preached and behind him were angels ministering to him. The Lord is calling his people to know the truth. On the 25th, he dreamed that he looked into the heavens and they were parting and began to light up in flames and a word began to form in the clouds, which he could not read.

Nilda Berta Castellanos, a sister in the congregation shares that on May 20, 2005, she had a pain in her right ankle that she could not bear when she stood up. She testifies, "One day brother Socorro Vasquez and Fito Leiva came and laid their hands upon me. When they prayed, I felt a warmth come into my body from my head to my feet and I was healed. Praise God for his servants that he has placed among his people." In November of 2007 she fell and hurt her left side. She could not endure the pain and again called upon elder Fito, her pastor. He laid on hands and prayed and her body was healed and the pain left her side. She gives thanks for God's mercy and his love for us. The Lord is moving among His people in Santa Cruz!

That afternoon, Phil was talking some more with Tino in the backyard while he worked on a door that he was fixing for someone. Tino had the pieces of the door all apart and, sometime during the process, he dropped a piece on the ground. After searching for several minutes and not finding it, Phil suggested that they needed to pray which he proceeded to do. Following the prayer, they looked down and there was the piece just lying there in plain sight! This was a real testimony to Tino.

After leaving the border, we traveled to Mexico City where Phil performed his first wedding in Spanish. Elizabeth Castillo and her fiancé, Benjamin Pichardo, had asked him to do this two years ago. This provided an opportunity to spread some seeds to the more than 200 friends and family that attended. The groom's parents were eager to ask questions about the Restoration, our relationship to the Mormon Church and our different beliefs. Phil also put on a Sacrament service for the members of the family who are church members. Over the course of two days, we visited with Memo Castillo (the younger one) and his wife Sandra for over six hours. Memo is beginning to make his own return to the Lord and desired counsel and Sandra wanted to know more about our church, especially the Book of Mormon. She promised that she would read it. All in all, more doors were opened this trip than any other we can remember. Praise the Lord!

One last testimony came after we had returned to the States from Mexico. It began there when we hit a tope (t-oh-pay) or speed bump very hard. In Brownsville, we checked the tire and found a large bump on it (which could have blown at any time) and even the aluminum wheel was bent. We put on a new tire and continued on home. When we replaced the wheel and got the rest of a new set of tires, we realized what a miracle had occurred. The wheel was broken all the way through! How it held air and got us safely home, only God knows! One of our friends said, "You really kept the angels busy holding your car up through the windy mountain roads and all the way home." God is so good and we thank Him for the opportunities to serve and to fellowship with the Saints in Mexico.