



Agosto 2023

Dear Pastor and families of the church, receive cordial greetings in the love of Christ from Panama City.

I inform you that the missionary work continues in the city of Panama. In these last two months, more than ten people have been baptized, some seventy-three have received Christ, and a large number of visitors have come to the church for the first time and have received the Lord as their Savior. It was a great blessing to be able to guide Mr. Popa; he and his entire family are faithfully coming to church on Sunday mornings. There are seven members of that family that my wife and I have saved, and we are working with them in our area that we visit every week. Also, Mrs. Raisa and her three children are coming to the church together with her mother-in-law; her husband came twice but has not returned due to work. God has blessed us, and we are very encouraged to be doing the work that the Lord has called us to do in this country.

On the other hand, Mrs. Cristina was one of the girls who came on the bus routes when she was a child, and now my daughter and another sister visit her. She moved in with her parents, grew up, got together with someone, had a daughter, and returned to the place where she lived before after thirteen years. She was visited again and invited to church, and in one of the services, she raised her hand to be saved. My wife led her to Christ outside the church and told her everything I just wrote to you. We didn't remember her; we didn't even recognize her. As a girl, she came on the bus routes and to Sunday school, but we thank God that we are working in those areas and that we have not stopped visiting house to house every week.

Another experience that we had in the two months since the last letter we sent you in May was that of Sister Anabel Paz. When my wife and I started the church in April of 2006, she was the first person we won to Christ and the first person to be baptized, discipled, and come to church. She spent about six years in the church, then she moved away. She had a problem with her husband; they left each other, and since then she hasn't come to church anymore. A month and a half ago, she contacted us and asked if we could receive her back in the church. We told her that of course she could return, and since then, she has not stopped congregating on Sunday mornings. She brings her granddaughter to Sunday school, and her daughter, when she doesn't have to work, congregates too. Eleven years without coming to a service, an activity, or an event, and suddenly she has been faithfully attending church for almost two months. We believe that we are in this place for a reason, and by the grace of God, we will continue trying to help people who want to seek God.

Regarding the mission in Chorrera, God is little by little opening doors for all the necessary projects to conclude with the construction and the details that are needed. An American missionary who has lived in Panama for many years told me, "Take me where they are building because I want to contribute something." I took him; he saw the need, and he gave us money to buy the water pump we needed and to build a house for the pump so they wouldn't steal it. He said he would also help us with the kitchen, but for next year. For now, some brothers and young people from the church have gone to maintain the lot because it has rained and the grass grows very quickly.

Also in the month of July, I had the opportunity to win over brother Armando's mother and sister; the lady is in very poor health and is very Catholic. We had prayed for her for weeks, and she received me very kindly and listened to the whole message of salvation. In the end, I invited them to make a decision for Christ, and they were both saved. They were very happy and grateful.

With the men, we had a Father's Day activity in June; some could not be there, but all of us who were there enjoyed ourselves with games, competition, food, and the Word of God. I thank God for the men of the church. I had the opportunity to preach at a youth conference of a church in the metropolitan area, and it was a great blessing to see the youth make the decision to "Don't Give Up," which was the motto of the conference. The children in "Children's Day" also had a good time with a program for them. I thank God for another year that He has allowed me to fulfill and serve him.

Once again, thank you for your financial support and your prayers that make it possible for us to serve the Lord and reach the lost for Christ. If you would like to see photos of the work in Panama, you can follow us on our Facebook page: @iglesiabautistamision.

***If you wish to support us, you can do so through Bank of America (California) to checking account # 2711202438 in the name of Rodrigo Contreras or Danyra Contreras, or you can support us through the missionary agency Central Missionary Clearinhouse, PO Box 219228, Houston, TX 77218-9228. Or through PayPal (@RODRIGO183), CashApp (@RODRIGOECR), or Zelle (using the email: rodrigoecrr@hotmail.com).***