

# What a Difference ~~a Year~~ <sup>2 years</sup> Make!

What a Difference a Year Makes was our report from last Christmas a year ago on construction progress of the Latin America Resource & Training Center in Panama. This Christmas, we look back at what God has done in 2017 and declare, **what a difference two years have made!** We are living the fulfillment of a twelve year-old dream!

A year ago, we were celebrating the completion of the structure of Building One. On February 20th, we moved our offices to the second floor and by the end of July, all finish work was complete! We also stepped out in faith to begin construction of Building Two and believed God that the 10 guestrooms on the first floor would be completed by July 31st.

Once again, God used two teams - Portland Christian Center (OR) and Calvary Christian Assembly (Seattle, WA) - and many generous people and ministries to provide needed funding to be able to complete this work and more! Thirty-two students and teachers moved into those rooms for study four weeks in August.

**Thanks to the excellent work of MAPS Construction Teams** from Grove Church (Marysville, WA) and Eastridge Church (Issaquah, WA) in October and November, nearly all of the perimeter block work is complete on the second floor of Building Two (see report on reverse side). Even before these two teams arrived, the Lord miraculously provided funding to purchase materials and install the roof, and to build the stairwell for Building Two. When finished, the second floor will add 13 new guestrooms, allowing us to house nearly 100 leaders, pastors and teachers.

**Work is currently underway** to bring the first-floor kitchen, pantry, laundry and storage rooms to *construction finish* (tile, ceiling, electrical, paint, lighting, plumbing, windows and doors). The Eastridge Church team generously provided funds for a commercial washer and dryer. We are believing God for a women's group to "adopt" the equipping of the commercial kitchen!

**What a different 2 years have made!** From 0% the end of 2015 to 25% the end of 2016, we have now completed more than 50% of the LARTC construction! We continue to see God's miraculous hand at work through your generosity and His stretching provision for maximum value. Below is a summary of the progress of our five construction phases.

1. **Training/Admin/Production**, 9,200 sq ft (2016-17) - **100% COMPLETE!**
2. **Housing/Kitchen**, 15,200 sq ft (2017-18) - **65% COMPLETE!**
3. **Atrium: Reception/Auditorium/Dining**, 5,700 sq ft (2018-19)
4. **Training/Admin Addition**, 5,200 sq ft (2019-20)
5. **Staff Housing**, 4,200 sq ft (2020-21)

**Please pray for us and the Center in 2018:** Faith to believe for miraculous provision, wisdom in how it is used, and strength and anointing to serve as God continues to open doors for ministry. We will be working on two fronts in 2018 as funds permit. First, we hope to finish the 13 guestrooms on the second floor. Second, we hope to begin construction of the Phase Three Atrium building!

Even now, with the new facilities we are better able to empower leaders, train teachers and produce resources. We need your help to finish what we've started! In addition to praying, as God prospers you, please include the LARTC Project in your year-end giving to the address above.

AGWM  
 LARTC Project 14295  
 1445 Boonville Ave.  
 Springfield, MO 65802

Together we are raising up Christian leaders in Panama and throughout Latin America to train harvest workers who will go to the ends of the earth!

**Rod and Sherry**



**Action Bible Distributions Begin  
 Two Teams Advance LARTC Construction  
 & Prayer Needs & Praise Reports  
 on the reverse side!**

## Action Bible Distributions Begin

In July we began distributions of the *Santa Biblia en Acción* (Action Bible) in three schools. We are grateful to ChildHope President Phil Schmidt and the whole leadership team for undertaking this huge \$375,000 project to purchase 50,000 Bibles (\$7.50 each). Each hard-cover Bible is 9-1/2" x 6-1/2" and features four 32-page sections of full-color "Marvel" comic style Bible stories, half in the Old Testament and half in the New Testament.

The Bible uses the Spanish version of the New Living Translation, much easier to read and understand for children than the common "King James" Spanish version. The Panama schools received 7,520 Bibles, the second largest of any country. Our strategy in Panama is to distribute almost 4,000 Bibles now to the second through sixth-graders in the 30 elementary schools. The remaining 3,500 plus rest will be given to incoming 2nd graders for the next approximately five years. In five years, 10 years of children and youth will have one of the Bibles.

Our strategy goes beyond just handing out Bibles to kids. Two other missionary families helped us to write a lesson booklet with four sample lessons to help teachers know how to involve kids in the Bible, both in the Bible text and in the excellent extra-biblical content that includes the full-color Bible stories, an amazing hit with the kids! We are involving our Panama missionaries and the building and ministry teams they have from the States to help with the distributions. One of our missionaries or staff from our office visit each

## Two Teams Advance LARTC Construction

We hosted two construction teams from Washington State, one the first week of October and the other the first week of November. The primary focus of the two groups would be to lay the outside wall block on the second floor of the housing building. Just days before the first team arrived, we completed the roof, staircase and balcony platform for the air conditioner compressors. This allowed both groups access and a dry, secure place to work. Between teams our crew finished the block and roof over the stairwell.

Pastor NiK Baumgart and former missionary associates Randy and Lynne Forsyth directed the team of 12

### PRAYER NEEDS & PRAISE REPORTS

- Praise the Lord for his miracle provision, the generosity of God's people and construction completed on the LARTC in 2017!
- Please pray for provision (offerings and teams) for continued work in 2018 on the second floor of the housing building and the Atrium.
- Praise the Lord! The CIECAD Christian School Congress in Managua in September was a rousing success!
- Please pray for the ongoing Action Bible distributions in our schools in Panama.
- Praise the Lord for continued growth in the Good Shepherd Schools in Panama... 36 schools with nearly 9,800 children and youth!
- Please pray for the more than 250 children who need a ChildHope sponsor. To sponsor a child please visit: [www.ChildHopeOnline.org](http://www.ChildHopeOnline.org).
- Praise the Lord for the generosity and ministry of the Little Davey Team that built and installed 75 computers in seven different schools the first week of September.!

classroom personally teach a Bible lesson with the classroom teach observing.

We involved the two recent construction teams in two Bible distributions. In early October, the **Grove Church** team helped us distribute Bibles to 228 children in 10 classrooms, grades 2-6, at the **24th of December Good Shepherd School** outside of Panama City. Melissa Pimentel, one of our staff, took half of the classes and we took the other half. The Grove team passed out the Bibles and helped the children write their names in their new Bible. We taught the lesson *What Is the Bible?* and used the "Simon Says" game to open the lesson, illustrating the concept of commands and following instructions. We then looked at the 10 Commandments story from the full-color section and the Bible text from Exodus.

In early November, the **Eastridge Church** team visited the **Getsemani Good Shepherd School** and attended the two weekly chapels for the 525 students. Then they helped us distribute Bibles to 281 children in the 9 classrooms, grades 2-6.

Please pray with us that God's Word will be sewn in the lives of thousands of children and youth, and many thousand more parents, siblings and family members. Isaiah 55:11, *"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

from the **Grove Church** (Marysville). This team has become experienced in construction because of four consecutive trips to Panama to help with construction of school facilities. The team returned for a second trip this year to help with LARTC construction. The team quickly found their rhythm and when finished had over 50% of the perimeter wall up with both the lower and upper bond beams poured, and even started block work above the upper bond beam. The team took one morning off to help with the Action Bible distribution at the December 24th Good Shepherd School.

Executive pastor Larry Murrell led a team of 12 from **Eastridge Church** (Issaquah). One of the team members was a part of the 2007 trip to Panama when Eastridge worked on the Las Mananitas and Jehova Jireh Good Shepherd Schools. Those two schools represent 15% of the nearly 10,000 children and youth in the Panama Schools. The team picked up where the Grove Church team left off. When finished, they closed in an additional 40% and laid five courses above the upper bond beam, ready for the last bond beam. The team took one morning off to visit the two chapels at the Getsemani Good Shepherd School and to help with distribution of the Action Bible.

**We're grateful for the work of these two teams** who helped us to see that with two more teams we can finish all of the block work on the upper floor of the housing building! Please pray with us that God will continue send teams and funds for this worthy project. So far, we have two teams scheduled for 2018.

Our goal for 2018 is to begin construction of the 5,700 sq ft Phase Three Atrium that will connect buildings one and two, as well as complete the 13 guestrooms on the upper floor of the housing building. As funds permit we will also build a new street entrance, recondition the gravel road and parking, continue the perimeter security wall and build the retention wall on the back side of the property.

**BY THE END OF 2018, LARTC WILL BE FUNCTIONALLY COMPLETE thanks to friends like you!**

