

No Greater Joy

By Rod and Sherry Boyd

*"I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 4)*

Few would disagree. It's hard to beat the look of joy on the face of a child as they receive an ornately wrapped present, open it and react to his or her new treasure! We are so privileged to witness this innocent wonder countless times each year, especially at the end of the year. Hundreds of Panamanian children and youth look forward to the tradition of Latin America ChildCare Christmas Parties.

These kids are no strangers to gifts. Giving and receiving gifts is an important part of the Panamanian culture. And great emphasis is placed on gift wrapping. All of our department stores offer free gift wrapping! Of course, we buy so many presents it's not practical to have the store wrap them. We're so thankful that Mom can come each year to help with this important ministry. She also helps with the refreshments at the parties.

For all of us, seeing these happy kids is the fruit of our labor. God is at work in their lives. Though not complete, you can see that they are "filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy" (1 Peter 1:8). And their joy is our joy! This single moment represents years of investment in the life of a child. Paul told the Thessalonian church, "After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! **Yes, you are our pride and joy**" (1 Thes. 2:19-20).

These children are our legacy. And to think that we have a part in shaping their future. We started sponsoring a little girl several years ago and helped her until she graduated a few years ago. We were surprised and delighted when Janeth came with her mother to see us while we were having the Christmas party at her old school. What pride and joy we felt to see Janeth, her mother and her new baby!

We can't sponsor all of these children and young people. Thankfully we have an army of generous, loving sponsors who can. If you are one of them, thank you. Thank you for giving to these children so that they can go to school. Thank you for remembering them with a birthday and Christmas present.

Together we're building a lasting legacy of joy!

Have a JOYFUL Christmas... Rod and Sherry



Chile 2010 Bible School Summit *and* Prayer Needs on reverse side

Chile 2010 Summit: Momentum for Leadership Training

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The 2010 Educators Summit for South America was held August 30th through September 2nd in El Quisco, Chile. We are amazed at how God continues to bless these educator conferences.

National leaders, Bible school directors, teachers and even our own missionaries recognize the value of these “*iron sharpens iron*” events. We all look forward to strengthening our skills and programs and the inspiration that comes from seeing what God is doing in the various countries in Latin America. Each person pays his or her way to the event and a moderate registration fee that covers their food, lodging and materials.

Our attendance goal for the South America Summit was 200. We had 175 at the 2008 Summit in Argentina. We weren't sure what affect the January earthquake in Chile would have on those that would attend from Chile. Registrations started coming in the end of June. We had reached 275 by the time pre-registration closed the end of July! Our final attendance was 317 from 15 different countries. This was one more than attended the Summit in Managua in March! For the first time we had representation from all 9 Spanish-speaking countries in South America accounting for 284 or nearly 90% of the attendance. This is a breakthrough!

The South America Summit followed the Central America/Caribbean Summit that was conducted March 1-4 in Managua Nicaragua. The combined attendance for the two Summits in 2008 was 396. The combined attendance this year was 635, an increase of more than 60%! Our greatest challenge was providing transportation for 250 participants from the various delegations that were arriving to Santiago by plane, bus and automobile. The conference center we used is located on the Pacific coast, about 90 minutes due west of Santiago. The Santiago Bible school became the “collecting site.” Four large “pusher” buses carried the participants to Punta de Tralca located next to the town of El Quisco. The remaining participants arrived directly in their own buses or cars.

The increased attendance required significant adjustments in the facilities—a camp-like conference center called Casa de Ejercicios (Exercise House). We filled the chapel and dining facilities to capacity! We had to find off-site housing for some and additional workshop rooms. Although we had warned each participant that there would be no heat in the rooms, none of us were totally prepared for the near-freezing temperatures. Even so the presence of the Holy Spirit and good fellowship kept everyone warm during our times together in the chapel and workshops. Everyone managed well in spite of the rustic conditions.

The theme of this year's Summits was **Priority 1: Transgenerational Ministry Formation** taken from 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witness entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” The emphasis was on the need to return to discipleship and mentoring as the principle task of teaching. As disciplers we must focus on training other disciplers, always leveraging to future generations.



In addition to excellent general sessions each morning and services at night, participants were able to choose from 21 different workshops in 5 periods. Five were Procepa workshops. This is a new program that began two years ago that leads towards certification for Bible school teachers and administrative staff. More than 1,200 teachers have now taken at least one Procepa workshop in the last 2 ½ years!

We were pleased to have six publishers whose sponsorship helps to underwrite the cost of the event. Each of these publishers brings one book for each participant and an assortment of books that are raffled off during the Summit, especially in the closing session. This creates quite a festive atmosphere and adds a special touch due to the expense and shortage of books in most of our Bible schools. We were able to give each participant a copy of the Plan Basico 2010, the updated curriculum guide for our Bible schools.

We should not expect to see souls saved and conserved for the kingdom if we neglect the training of ministry leaders. We believe that the Educator Summits are giving needed emphasis to training pastors, teachers, missionaries, evangelists and so many that serve in

specialized ministries in the local church. We have received so many positive comments about these Summits. A missionary colleague wrote, “There can be no doubt that Christian Education, especially on the ministerial training level, is being strengthened significantly in our region. Record numbers of participants in both Summits (Central America/Caribbean and South America) this year demonstrate that.”

We definitely sense God's momentum and are praying that He will continue to empower our educational leaders throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Even now we have begun plans for the 2012 Summits. We will be hosting the national leaders in Panama at the 2011 Educational Leaders Dialogue. We will evaluate the Summits, consider the needs in our countries and begin planning for the 2012 Summits. Please pray with us that God would give us wisdom and favor.

PRAYER NEEDS & PRAISE REPORTS

- Praise the Lord for the two 2010 Bible School Educators Summits held in Managua, Nicaragua and El Quisco, Chile. Combined attendance was 633, 40% more than 2008.
- Pray for our schools in Panama as they end the 2010 school year and work on classroom expansion. Pray for the three construction teams that will be working at the Chepo Good Shepherd School in 2011.
- Pray that God will send needed sponsorship to children in Panama. We currently have more than 400 children and youth in need of a sponsor.
- Pray for the upcoming Educational Leaders Dialogue that we will be hosting in Panama. We expect 30 leaders from 15 different Spanish-speaking countries.
- Praise the Lord that the Little Davey Project and the Portland computer team will be returning to Panama in May 2011 to build computers for our schools.
- Pray for the development of the Regional Education Center.