

# Gearing up!

We are gearing up for some big events and a great year in 2012! **School started here in Panama on February 27th.** We talked with about a dozen pastors and directors just days before classes started. You have to admire their faith, sacrifice and persistence! We believe more than ever in the ministry of the schools. Children, youth, parents, families and communities are changed by the power of the Holy Spirit through transformational education. Please take a few moments to read the article that appears on the reverse side: **Church and School—Leaving a Lasting Legacy.** We share three encouraging testimonies from our participation in recent meetings.

We would especially appreciate your prayers as we are in the home stretch of preparation for the **2012 Bible School Summit** that will be held **April 16-19 in San Jose, Costa Rica.** We are expecting to have around 350 from 15 different countries. Nearly all of the 50 speakers and assistants of general sessions, services, devotionals and workshops have now confirmed. We are in constant communication with national leaders as they finalize the delegations from their countries. We're excited to have a pretty large group from Panama participating this year. Since Costa Rica is our neighbor country to the north, it's easy to charter a bus. We met with the Local Summit Committee in San Jose last month. These folks pictured to the right are working hard to be great hosts for the event. Would you join us in prayer for this important conference? Thanks!

At the same time we are planning the "southern version" of the same Summit that will take place **September 10-13 in Lima, Peru.** We were in Lima in January to attend their annual session for pastors and promote the Summit. It was impressive to see the 1,400 pastors and delegates gathered; and we were honored to be able to announce the Summit and encourage them to attend. We also met with the local committee to work through several details. We will be returning to Lima the end of May for our final meeting with the local committee before the Summit. We are also hoping to conduct a PROCEPA Seminar for their teachers during the May visit to get them a head start before the Summit in September.

The Summit in Lima will be followed by the **Christian Education Services triennial meeting, September 13-15.** As Education Coordinator for Spanish-speaking Latin America, we are responsible for planning and presiding over this important meeting of the national superintendentes, directors of Christian education and international educational ministry leaders. Decisions will be made that will affect the training of ministers throughout the continent.

This new year holds so much promise and will be so much work! We are grateful for your regular prayers and faithful financial support. Don't stop!

God's best... Rod and Sherry



*Church and School—Leaving a Lasting Legacy... on reverse side*

# Church and School Leaving a Lasting Legacy

We've been in some meetings recently that have reminded us of the incredible impact that our schools are having in the lives of children, youth and their families. Allow us to share three testimonies with you.

We were in **San Salvador** for a meeting of national school leaders and LACC missionaries to begin planning the 2013 Christian School Congress. The 2010 Congress focused on Transforming the Next Generation. The theme for the 2013 Congress will be Forging Tomorrow's Leaders. The twenty leaders present pledged their solidarity to leave a lasting legacy!

We will also be celebrating at the Congress the 50th anniversary of the opening of the first school in Latin America in 1963. Some estimate that more than one million children and youth have attended one of our schools in El Salvador. The current national director of the program in El Salvador is a graduate. Countless pastors, government leaders and businessmen were shaped by the ministry of the schools. Today there are 100,000 children and youth studying in more than 400 LACC partner schools.

We were guests at the **Good Shepherd Family Church** in the Santa Librada neighborhood of San Miguelito. Portland Christian Center built the church building in 2001, a year after they built three classrooms and a teacher's room at the Canaan Good Shepherd School across the street.

That spark that the Portland team ignited in 2000 and 2001 has erupted into a blaze of growth and impact, not just in San Miguelito, but to communities across Panama. The Canaan School is our largest school with 900 students. What's more, it has started another school nearby and has given support and directly to a struggling school 100 miles away!

We were humbled by Pastor Julio's kind words as he introduced us before speaking. He mentioned the blessing that LACC is to so many children and youth, whose sponsors make it possible for them to go to school, meet Christ and allow them to dream about the future God has for them. He spoke about the schools and classrooms that we have helped to build thanks to so many MAPS construction teams.

We attended the **Panama Christian School Seminar in Panama**. Around 200 pastors, directors, teachers and other school staff attended this annual training event. We were able to share about the ministry of LACC and about the 2013 Congress, highlighting the theme verse: "Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you" (2 Tim. 1:14, NIV). It's always fun to be able to visit with the different pastors. We spoke with Pastor Alexis and Ariela from the Oasis of Peace Church and Good Shepherd School.

They shared with us about their work on the school in preparation for classes starting. They need to finish up a small classroom for the sixth graders. As we were talking they casually mentioned that there are now eight new families attending the church that have come as the result of the ministry of the school!

One of the speakers at the seminar said the following: "Education is the key to the development of any society. And teachers are the major builders of the nation." The Christian school has the special place of offering both education and transformation. The church and school working in tandem will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

We say thank you to all who directly support us in prayer and finance. And thank you to all who sponsor a child to go to one of our LACC schools. And thank you to our churches that have provided construction teams to build schools and to all who have been a part of those teams. Together we are leaving a lasting legacy!



## PRAYER NEEDS & PRAISE REPORTS

- Please pray for the kids, teachers and schools as classes started on February 27th. Pray for God's anointing on each teacher, child and classroom.
- Pray for the final preparations for the 2012 Bible School Summit that will be held April 16-19 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Pray also for preparation for the same event that will be held September 10-13 in Lima, Peru. We are anticipating 700 teachers and leaders to attend these two events.
- Praise the Lord for the excelente planning meeting in El Salvador. The Christian School Congress will be held June 4-6, 2013 in San Salvador. We will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school program in El Salvador.
- Pray for Randy and Lynne Forsyth as they complete the final 15% of their budget and prepare to travel to Costa Rica for language study.
- Praise the Lord for the local Summit committees that are coordinating local planning for the two Bible School Summits. We met with both committees in January.
- Please pray for ongoing school construction needs in Panama. Several pastors have talked to us about their projects. Pray especially for the Chepo school, feature project for 2011-12.
- Pray that God will send needed sponsors to help more than 300 children and youth still waiting for a sponsor in Panama.