

LARTC Phase 3 Atrium Construction Launched

We thank God for continued health and strength! The beginning of January we were reminded of how tenuous life is with the passing of Lowell David, National Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Panama. David Godwin (pictured right), good friend and missionary founder of the church in Panama, spoke at Lowell's funeral. We were able to spend some time with him and show him our progress on the Latin America Resource & Training Center.

LARTC ATRIUM CONSTRUCTION was launched the first week of January thanks to a miraculous offering that paid for the foundation and roof! This third phase of construction connects the Training/Administration Housing wings. The Atrium is a two-story enclosed building with a glass front and upper-story glass back. It features a bridge mezzanine that connects the second floors of the Training/Administration and Housing buildings. When finished, the 5,000+ square foot Atrium will include a lobby and reception area, large auditorium for meetings and dining, restrooms, meal staging room (from the commercial kitchen) and storage room.

PREPARATIONS. We had just seven weeks to complete some complicated preparation work before the first team of the year arrived. Four column footings and pedestals were poured for the Phase Four Training/Administration building addition. The large anti-seismic foundation columns were poured to connect with the existing columns. All of this was necessary to have the back left column for the Atrium! The anti-seismic foundation columns were poured to connect the Training/Administration building columns with the Housing building columns. Eight footings/pedestals were built and eight 6x6 I-beams were erected for the Atrium roof trusses. The four Atrium trusses were erected by crane. Finally, perlin and roofing panels were installed. We finished about half of the fifth step before the team arrived.

BAKERSFIELD (CA) FIRST A/G TEAM. A combined MAPS Construction and medical team arrived on March 3rd from Bakersfield (CA) First A/G. The construction team began work immediately on the row of rooms located behind the back wall. In just three days they completed the block walls of the 14 x 67.5 foot building to bondbeam height.

The team then moved to the second floor of the housing building to continue block and bondbeam work on the guestrooms. They completed nearly all of the block work and quite a bit of the bondbeams. *They completed an amazing amount of work in just one week!*

Fellow missionaries Miguel and Maria Morales worked with the Bakersfield Medical Team to provide medical and vision screenings that included dispensing a variety of medications and eye-glasses, and much personal prayer for patients. A new church plant at the entrance of our property is hosting the clinic. So many have been touched and are new members of this church!

Thank you Bakersfield First for your investment in LARTC and Panama!

DREAMING AND PRAYING OUT LOUD. We are absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of God's people to rally around us and the LARTC project. You exceeded our \$25,000 prayer! We are believing that God will make it stretch to finish six new guestrooms. Thank you! Please continue to pray with us that God would provide for continued construction of the guestrooms and Atrium.

Thank you for praying and giving. Together we are raising up Christian leaders who are shaping generations of harvest workers!

Rod and Sherry

There's more on the reverse side... A Giant Awakening... Saltillo, Mexico Report



**Prayer Needs & Praise Reports
on the reverse side!**

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A GIANT AWAKENING!

Saltillo, Mexico Report

Saltillo, Mexico, February 21-23, 2018... Nearly 900 Bible School teachers gathered for the **2018 Pentecostal Renovation Workshop** in the national superintendent's church facilities in Saltillo, Mexico. This was a repeat of the same event held two years ago in the same location. Once again, the Spirit of God filled His people, empowering and encouraging us in our task to train harvest workers. The strong national leadership team invited many of our international training ministry leaders, including our staff, to participate in general sessions and workshops. This kind of passionate leadership and teamwork is something new for Mexico in training ministry.

This year we celebrate nine years serving as Directors of Educational Ministries for Christian Education Services. This Assemblies of God international ministry serves the 20 Spanish-speaking countries in the Latin America – Caribbean region. More recently, the 14 Hispanic Districts in the United States have become part of our large educational family. Services range from Sunday school and discipleship ministries, to Bible schools that train ministers, to master's level studies through the Latin America Theological Seminary, as well as many other ministries.

We intentionally call ourselves a family. We have much in common... language, culture and history. We have found that we are better and stronger when we work together! Since each country is autonomous, our big family requires constant attention to maintain unity between member countries and programs. Even though there is growing participation, some countries have been difficult to get onboard! It requires time and patience, understanding and persistence.

PRAYER NEEDS & PRAISE REPORTS

- Praise the Lord! We exceeded the Praying and Dreaming Outline Campaign goal of \$25,000. Close to \$30,000 has come in so far. This will allow us to finish six new guestrooms on the second floor. Thank you to all who gave!
- Please pray for the final preparations for the 2018 Educators Summit, April 16-19 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Pray that God visit our group of 500 pastors/professors and leaders.
- Praise the Lord for the work of the Bakersfield First Assembly MAPS construction and medical team. They made significant progress on the Atrium blocking.
- Please pray for the more than 250 children who need a Childhope sponsor. If you can be one of these, please visit: www.LACC4Hope.org.
- Praise the Lord for the start of a new school year. We are expecting that the total number of students in the 36 schools will surpass 10,000 for the first time! Many children still need a sponsor!
- Please continue to pray for generous offerings for continued construction of the Atrium and second-floor guestrooms.

Mexico was one of those countries. Prior to 2006, Mexico's training

program was fairly isolated. We consistently invited them to participate in events and a few did. Things seemed to change in 2006 when the new National Christian Education Director attended the Educators Summit in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. In 2007, he joined us for the International Educational Leaders Dialogue in Panama and has been a regular participant since then. He began to open up about their program in Mexico and encouraged a few others to attend the 2008 and 2010 Summits.

We had an extended conversation following the 2010 Summit in Managua, Nicaragua. He said, *"We'd like to have an Educators Summit in Mexico."* We invited Mexico's new national superintendent to participate in the 2012 Educators Summit in San Jose, Costa Rica. During the Summit the national director and national superintendent came to me and said, *"We'd like to have an Educators Summit in Mexico in 2013."*

The 2013 Educators Summit in Cancun, Mexico was a rousing success! Our international leadership team joyfully participated, providing needed orientation to the 325 Mexicans that attended. The Summit introduced the Mexican pastors and leaders to the PROCEPA teacher certification program. There was so much excitement that 36 Mexicans attended the 2014 Summit in San Salvador, El Salvador, four times more than past Summits.

Mexican leadership decided to conduct their own version of the Educators Summit called the Pentecostal Renewal Workshop. They invited us to participate in the 2016 event and to organize the PROCEPA workshop program. They invited us back for this year's workshop.

From minimal participation before 2013, to 308 after the 2013 Mexico Summit, to more than 1,000 after the 2016 Mexico Workshop, and now after the 2018 Workshop, **Mexico now has 1,458 teachers registered in PROCEPA (teacher certification) and 244 who have completed basic certification, both the largest number of any country.**

There are many other signs that Mexico, the most populated Spanish-speaking country in the world, is a giant that is awakening to the need to train and send harvest workers to unreached places in Mexico and around the world. Pray with us that God will raise up Mexico, now an active family member in the Spanish-speaking training family, as leaders in our efforts to raise up harvest workers who will make disciples in all nations.

