



Carolina, Margarita, Alejandra and Ismael all took the "Following Jesus" discipleship course.



Ángel, one of our new believers, gets baptized.



Carolina and Ángel with their baptism certificates

His Kingdom Shall Increase

God is still reaching hearts and saving souls! That is what missions is all about—leaving one culture behind to go into a different culture to share the gospel. This past year we saw brand new people start attending services, we disciplined six and baptized two. Praise the Lord! Ismael, the man in the top picture, stopped me on the road one day and leaned out his car window. He said, "Pastor, I need God! I can't go on anymore." He had lived as a drunkard for years and had come to the end of his strength. I met with him, and we prayed together. Later he came to church and came forward to give his life to Christ.

He started bringing Alejandra with him, and they both decided to start taking discipleship class. It has been so exciting to watch God begin to work in their lives. Ismael has had many struggles. About a month ago he went into rehab for a few days. But he continues to press forward! Please pray for him that God will break all the chains in his life and help him grow as a Christian.

Others have also prayed to be saved and a total of six took our new discipleship course called "Following Jesus." In late November two of them got baptized. A few others were not quite ready, and one had been previously baptized before coming to our church.

Thank the Lord for what He is doing! Our desire is to see more fruit for Christ in this new year. So many others are still bound in darkness, alcohol, drugs, and sin whom God in His great mercy is wanting to reach. Pray for us! Pray that God will make us fruitful, that new doors will open for the gospel, and that we can see many more won to Christ!

Ministry in San Luis

In early December our family had the privilege to travel to San Luis, Honduras to participate in a ladies' conference with about three hundred people in attendance. Hannah was the invited speaker and God really used her as she talked about being led by the Spirit, which was the conference theme. Many hearts were challenged, and there were good altar services with seekers going deeper with God. We were thrilled that five of our own church ladies accompanied us to the conference and they thoroughly enjoyed the speaking and fellowship. There was a duo from Guatemala called Voices of Hope who also did a fantastic job with the special music. The last night of the conference was a graduation of 6 Bible college students and Hannah and I shared together about being called to ministry and how to know God's will. Thank the Lord for a great weekend!



Hannah speaking at the conference.



Many of the ladies got spiritual help



Preaching in Monjas, Guatemala

In late October our family made the twelve-hour drive to Monjas, Guatemala, to preach a weekend revival. The church was celebrating its 77th anniversary. What a blessed time together! We certainly felt God’s help in the preaching, and the Holy Spirit was convicting and prodding hearts.

We enjoyed hearing some wonderful music.

We saw some wonderful victories in those services. In the Sunday morning service they asked Hannah to share her testimony. She said as a young person she wanted to become a famous surgeon and make lots of money. But God had other plans and called her to be a missionary. She struggled with that call but ultimately surrendered to God. She has no regrets that she did! The Lord used her story to speak to hearts.

Pastor Ruben Segura and his family were so kind and treated us royally. The last night of the revival after the service the church had everyone stay for tamales and fellowship. Praise the Lord for His help and for what was accomplished. It is a joy to serve the Lord.



Good attendance for the services

Passionate for Christ!

This January we kicked off the year with our annual youth retreat. Our theme was “Passionate for Christ.” A total of ninety-seven attended, including staff, and a good number of those were first time campers! As always there were lots of activities, team competitions, a bonfire, and lots of fun. But most importantly God touched hearts in the services. Pastor Alex Hernández is an HIM pastor from Guatemala. The Lord anointed him in a special way as he challenged the young people to abandon the world and to love Christ passionately and fervently. Several young people testified that the Lord had helped them to get their priorities back in line and to put God first in their lives. Praise the Lord! The people went home encouraged and determined to keep the fire burning in their hearts. Thank you to all who have prayed and supported this retreat. We deeply appreciate it. God is moving among our young people.



Hannah Stoltzfus, Sarah Kline, Quint and Hannah Shockley, and Esther Stoltzfus

Angels from Pennsylvania

On December 29 five special visitors arrived from the Pillow God’s Missionary Church in Pennsylvania. Quint and Hannah Shockley, Esther and Hannah Stoltzfus, and Sarah Kline came ready to work and serve!

They helped in so many ways. They washed our van, helped us get supplies and decorations ready at the camp, and also helped us get rooms and things ready for groups of teens coming in for the camp. Quint even cooked us a delicious meal of Mediterranean gyros and an incredible coconut cake. We so enjoyed hosting them and so appreciated their help.

They connected with our young people, despite the language barrier and made many new friends. They were an amazing blessing and helped lift our load at a very busy time of year. They say they are coming back again next year. We will be waiting with open arms!



Singing at youth camp

Pastor's Retreat



Food and fellowship together



The pastors and wives



Maurilio and his new tortilla-making machine

December 12-14 we were at the Guatemala HIM pastor's retreat held in Tacaná. What a blessing to reconnect with pastors from both Guatemala and Mexico. It was a time for fellowship and encouraging one another and for challenging messages on the topic of "Ministerial Hurt, How to Overcome It." God worked in a wonderful way to help some of our pastors heal emotionally and spiritually. They had come with some battle scars and struggles but were able to just give it all to Christ and rest in Him! Hannah had a session just with the pastor's wives and encouraged them as well to keep going, even though ministry can often times be difficult. It was a time of refreshing from the Lord!

After the retreat we spent an afternoon with Maurilio Ambrocio. He showed us around the town where he lives and also showed us his new tortilla-making machine. He is starting a tortilla business, and it seems to be going very well. He is also filling in at the Motozintla church until they can find a full time pastor. We thank the Lord for all He is doing in the churches in Guatemala.

Special Time with Family

My parents and my brother Scott came to visit with us in November. Boy, did we put them to work! Scott repainted Daniel's bedroom and helped give it a new look, while my dad got busy building several pieces of furniture. He made two end tables and a corner shelf for our living room. At the church he built two large shelves with three levels to put our storage bins on. In the meantime my mom baked dozens of cookies and pies and put up our Christmas decorations. They were a tremendous help and blessing!

It was not just all work though. We did escape a few days to El Salvador, where we enjoyed some downtime close to a beautiful beach. It was their first visit to El Salvador. They enjoyed the amazing sunsets, the calming waves, and the delicious pupusas! What a great time we had together. It is always a treat to have family around. Hopefully they will come back soon. Who knows what our next projects will be!



Scott, Mom, and Dad, always ready to help out



Dad working on a corner shelf

Snapshots



It was a privilege to marry Samuel and Cesia Ortiz. She is from our Tiloarque church in Honduras.



The boys made chocolate chip cookies while Joseph was home on Christmas vacation.



We spotted rubber trees in Guatemala. The sap is harvested in bowls and used for rubber.

Regional Update

It has been encouraging to look across our region and hear reports of growth and victories. Many of the pastors reported having new converts in their churches who were disciplined and baptized. That is what it is all about, seeing people won to Christ! Some new cell groups have been started, one in Cancún, Mexico. A family from the Tacaná, Guatemala, church moved to Cancún; Two of the ladies in that family took it upon themselves to start a ministry. They have been working with a good number of children and hope it will continue to grow into a full-fledged church. Another cell group has been started in Santo Domingo, Mexico, in the home of Pastor Benjamín de la Cruz. We are also looking at the possibility of buying a property near Santo Domingo for a new church plant.

San Marcos, Guatemala, has some exciting developments. Pastor Alex Hernández reports that four new people came to Christ, One person was baptized, and several have taken or are preparing to take discipleship class. This church has grown in just a short time to approximately fifty congregants. They have been praying for a property where they can build a church. Just recently they found a beautiful property at a price of \$100,000. God supplied \$42,000 as a downpayment. They have nine months to raise the remaining \$58,000. If you feel it on your heart to give toward this need, make your check payable to HIM and in the memo line, mark it for San Marcos Church. I know the congregation would be extremely grateful for your support.

There are many needs across Latin America. We are looking for missionaries and pioneers. Opportunities are open in Mexico City, Panama, and South America. If God is calling you, please let us know how we can help you fulfill God's leading in your life. The harvest field is ripe!



Four people who were baptized in Guatemala



A new cell group in Cancún, Mexico



Pastor Alex Hernández teaching in the San Marcos church.

Prayer Requests

Thank you for praying for us! Numerous times when faced with difficulties, trials, or dangers, we have sensed in an extra special way the prayers of God's people. Thank you so much! I would like to share some special needs and ask you to help us pray.

1. We would like to see our Tiloarque church building project get underway this year. The Beavertown God's Missionary Church so graciously raised around \$58,000 for our building. However, the location where we thought we were going to build does not seem to be working out. We are now looking at a different property. This means added expenses. Pray that God will show us exactly where to build and that the remaining financial need will be met.
2. We have several new people and new converts in our Tiloarque church. Pray God will establish Ismael, Alejandra, Jaquelin, Brenda, Wilmer, and others. Some are facing very difficult situations, but we know God has victory for each one of them.
3. Pray for new opportunities for ministry and for a new church plant. I would love to see a new church planted! We need God's leading.



Thank you for your **faithful prayers** and your **generous giving**.

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