



The TGCBI Herald

Editor

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THIS ISSUE
Third TGCBI
graduation
International news
A new paradigm

“And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.”

1 Thess. 1:7-8

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Celebration day for Gloria, Andres, and Agustin!

Congratulations to TGCBI’s Third Graduating Class!

Congratulations are in order for Agustin Garcia and Andres and Gloria Guajardo as they graduated with their Bachelor of Biblical Studies degree on December 19, 2009, at the third graduation ceremony of the TGCBI.

These three showed determination and perseverance as they progressed through the program. They did their field work in Southwest Houston and in Alvin, giving wonderful examples of hard work and faithfulness. Their congregations respect and love them. We know that God will use them in various ways as they go out to continue in ministry in various parts of Houston.

We also extend our gratitude to their teachers, who taught them from four different countries and many cities, including the local professors in Houston.

And of course we are honored by the trust and support that you—individuals and churches--gave and continue to give us as we seek to train ministers to expand God’s kingdom in the Hispanic world.

share a sample of how God is using the TGCBI to bless people in various countries and a multitude of ways.

Tipitapa, Nicaragua

In August we provided video conferencing equipment for a church in Tipitapa, Nicaragua, a church widely known in Nicaragua as one of the country's most evangelistic.



Marvin Mirandas baptizes a new brother in Tipitapa

Since last August, this congregation has had 130 baptisms there and in several other towns near them! They have also helped establish a new congregation, one of 9 they have helped begin since 2001.

They have 21 students enrolled in the video conferencing program part-time, and 3 have applied for full-time scholarships in August, if the Lord provides the funds.

This congregation is organized and hard-working, taking campaigns to surrounding towns at least once a month. In a January campaign to Pleywood, they rejoiced in the blessing of 11 more souls added to the kingdom.



Brethren studying with a lady from Pleywood.

Now we are talking with the leaders of this congregation about their desire to expand the institute's activities to several more sites within Nicaragua. Who knows what else the Lord will do through these remarkable Christians? We are encouraged and honored to be part of their training and church planting.

La Palma, El Salvador

We also have helped the Monett, Missouri, church of Christ begin a training institute in the town of La Palma, El Salvador. Through the unflagging efforts of Ralph McClurg and many Christians working with him, the La Palma church has become a significant force for good in that town.

They have established a Christian school, an institute, and an orphanage there, as well as expanding their auditorium. In June they inaugurated some of these facilities with a group of 325 brothers and sisters present!

They have helped plant and strengthen the church in Ocotepeque, Honduras nearby. Listen to Ralph's report about a new

work they just launched near La Palma:

“Sunday, February 7 was the inaugural day for a new Church of Christ in San Ignacio, Chalatenango, El Salvador. This congregation had been a dream for many for quite some time. Many meetings have been held there and the Gospel preached. For over a year, Jesus Hernandez has been going there on Sunday afternoons and teaching children in the home of a member.



First meeting of San Ignacio church

“For this inaugural event, about 40 traveled from La Palma to support the new congregation. As you can see, the auditorium overflowed and there was a group in another room. The children's classes were full also.”

How exciting it is to be involved with these committed Christians! God has blessed us with these and others like them in other countries. Please pray for them as they forge ahead in many areas.

Mexicali, Mexico

The Sunset International Bible Institute, working with Arthur Puente, Liberato Ovalle, and others,

has helped establish a new school in Mexicali, which began operations in August 2009 with 5 full-time students.



New students in Mexicali

The TGCBI and the video conferencing network provided a number of classes for this school in the fall of 2009, and professors such as Liberato and Esteban Lopez gave others, as well as supervision of the local work. We anticipate that this school will be a blessing for many, and ask for your prayers for God's guidance and blessing of this school.

A New Paradigm, a New Era

The video conferencing network is in its 5th year, with 131 active students and 20 professors from 45 sites located in 17 countries. In addition, our online courses have 278 students enrolled in 26 countries. Our records show 202 baptisms in 2009, and this assuredly does not include many more at these sites—these are just the ones we know about.

In a recent newsletter, Arthur Puente (Sunset's Dean of Latin

American Studies) said, “So much of what allows us to teach hundreds of students throughout Latin America goes through the TGCBI. The beauty of this new teaching method is that it brings together students and teachers from all over the world into one virtual classroom.”

As we mix students and professors from different cultures and backgrounds, they are learning from each other how to focus on what is the essential gospel across cultures, backgrounds, education, and economies.

One of our international students, Daniel Urdaneta Martinez, said this in his January report, “As classes continue, it has been

“Our studies in the TGCBI expand our horizons and permit us to have a better, more integrated vision of the teaching of the Word of God. Such courses as Church Planting, Small Groups, and Intro to Ministry have particularly impacted me. I am convinced that the combination of what I am learning in these classes will give me valuable tools to carry out the Great Commission. The quality of the teaching remains excellent, and one notes the great effort the professors invest in teaching us and making us think.”

God is doing great things! We covet your prayers and support as we continue on with this important work.

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interesting to note how my perception of many things mentioned in the Bible has changed.