

Costa Rica Report 2004

Jesus said, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature...”* (Mark 16:15). Because of your encouragement, prayers, and financial support I had the privilege of making a fourth mission trip to Costa Rica in Central America. I thank you and the brethren in Costa Rica thank you.

Those traveling in our group were Jim and Judy O’Connor (Oak Grove, MO), Steve and Nancy Thayer (Higginsville, MO), Scott and Laura Perry (Mabelvale, AR), our daughter and her husband, Sarah and T.J. Spradling (Gallatin, TN), our daughter, Ashley, and son, Brian (Mabelvale, AR). All who went were vital part of the work and it was a joy to work with each one.

Costa Rica is a very small country, bordered by Nicaragua on the north, Panama on the south, the Pacific Ocean on the west, and the Caribbean Sea (Atlantic Ocean) on the east. The purpose of the trip was to teach and preach the gospel in the city of Tilarán, a small town three hours northwest of the capital, San Jose, and in the towns of Los Chiles and Ciudad Quesada, located some three to four hours north of San Jose.



We worked with the preacher and his wife, Ofilio and Maria Castañeda, as well as the members of the church in Tilarán. The work in Tilarán consisted of door-knocking in the mornings, where Bible studies were set up and personal invitations were given to the people of Tilarán, an afternoon Vacation Bible school, evening Bible classes for the children of the congregation, a ladies class, and preaching each evening.



Brian Brewer teaching & Erick Acuña translating

Thirty-eight lessons were taught and preached during the trip to Costa Rica. Five people responded publicly during worship services Tilarán (3 baptisms, 1 restoration, 1 to study the Bible). It was a very special afternoon when thirty or more brethren walked about 20 minutes to the river to watch Adrian Mejia, Fernanda Lezama, and Fabian Reyes put on their Lord in baptism.



Adrian



Fernanda



Fabian

One person responded in Los Chiles with a desire to study the Bible. Three responded in Ciudad Quesada to be baptized (but because they really did not know enough to obey the gospel at that time, the preacher studied with them further), and one lady responded to be baptized in Los Lagos of Heredia.

An important part of the work in Tilarán this year was an afternoon Bible school. The attendance grew all week to a high of 61 children, and on the last Sunday that we were in Tilarán, 29 children came back for the Sunday morning Bible class and worship. A special thanks to Scott, TJ, and Brian for teaching the older children, and for Laura, Sarah, and Ashley teaching the younger children. They all prepared material in advance of the campaign, in Spanish, for the Bible school and evening Bible classes.



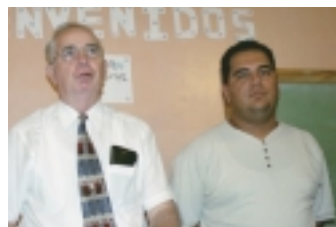
Sarah, TJ, & Ashley & children from the Vacation Bible School



Ashley, Sarah, Erick, & Brian with children from the congregation in Tilarán

The mode of transportation for members and visitors was by walking. Only one family of the church in Tilarán, has a vehicle. Some families walked half an hour or more, one way, to get to worship. They often lived on streets that were not well lit, in fact they were dark. Even in the summer it begins to get dark about 6:00 p.m., so members and visitors were walking to and from the worship in the dark. Seeing the effort that the Christians in Tilarán made to be present for worship, work in the campaign, prepare for the campaign, and invite their friends was an great encouragement to us from the USA.

The theme of the Bible lessons throughout our time in Costa Rica was “Beautiful Words of Jesus.” All of the sermons and Bible classes were designed around that theme as we studied the life and words of Jesus. Jim O’Connor, Steve Thayer, TJ Spradling, Scott Perry, and I preached in the evening.



Wayne preaching Jim O’Connor & Scott Perry preaching & Erick Acuña translating

The brothers and sisters in Tilarán and the other cities send their greetings and appreciation for your support that enabled us to make the mission trip to Costa Rica. The time in Costa Rica enabled us to preach and teach the gospel and edify the brethren. The

trip provided the opportunity to work with brothers and sisters whom we had known from past years, as well as meet and work with others whom we had not known. Keep the congregations and brothers and sisters in Costa Rica in your prayers. They keep the faith in difficult conditions.

Wayne Brewer
11325 Sardis Road
Mabelvale AR 72103

Waynebrewer74@aol.com (501) 455-3397



Sarah, Ashley, & children of Tilarán



Members of the church in Tilarán



Members of the church from various places in Costa Rica who came to Tilarán to work in the campaign



Saulo of Tilarán leading singing



Tilarán, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

