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**August 2018 REPORT**

September 3, 2018

**Beach Street CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Fort Worth, TX

Esteemed brethren,

Summer vacation months have come to an end! Our three children are back in school since Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Very quiet at home during the day. However, very grateful that God has allowed us the time and means to help them. Caleb (12 yrs. old) is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Ciara and Catia (10 yrs. old) in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We request your prayers on their behalf.

My preaching trip took me to Cuba in August. Remaining trips will take me to the Dominican Republic in September, Peru in October and Costa Rica in November. These events are the subject of this August newsletter.

**Havana, Cuba – August**

My trip to and from Havana, Cuba was safe. Due to the living and political conditions you really don't know what to expect as you step off the flying bird. As is widely reported, "A trip to Cuba is a trip back in time." Most of the poor people are seldom seen in the city; these live in rural areas or in the poor sectors of the city. Others are determined in finding a way to succeed. Small changes in the country are bringing about limited positive changes. Cubans are allowed and encouraged to have their own business. Most of these folks opt for any business that links to tourism, the current business that provides them a source of a decent income (in their standard of living). Leadership change has occurred, however, not much else has changed.

Home visits and Bible classes are the common method of working among the saints. Families feel at ease to express their doubts and concerns. Atheism comes up in all of these visits and classes. It is strong and active in government controlled secular education. It begins in kindergarten classes and clearly exhibits itself in their universities. Older folks generally have a strong solid faith in God while the younger folks struggle with their faith. There are other issues among the saints that need to be addressed every time I am with them. Among these is the issue of fellowship. Their failure to be distinct from other religious groups in doctrine and practice continues to blur their existence as true followers of Christ in Cuba. I also spoke on the so-called "Traditional Worship" and "Contemporary Worship" concept.

As I have reported in prior newsletters, the brethren, due to their limitations, only meet as a local church on Sundays. In my teachings I focused on the topic of "Factual Christianity" –

New Testament teaching is realistic; Christ is real; worship is truthful; godly living is a true life of faith; religious persecution is real; hope is real. We walk by faith; factual faith, not a blind or emotional faith. It was obvious to me that these lessons brought most listeners much needed comfort providing answers to their questions and doubts.

### **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – September**

In about two weeks I will be among the saints in the Caribbean country of the Dominican Republic. I will be working with several local churches in and around the metropolitan area of Santo Domingo. Arcadio Mañon Ozuna who labors with the church in El Mamón, located in the city of San Isidro, is making final preaching arrangements which will include preaching with the church in El Mamón.

Agribelto “Nino” Estevez will be flying to Santo Domingo from Barinas, Venezuela. Nino will be working with us there, but he will return to Venezuela with much needed medical supplies that are nearly impossible to find and purchase in Venezuela. I have collected funds that will go far in purchasing medical supplies in Santo Domingo. These medical supplies will be a huge blessing to needy saints in Venezuela.

### **Peru – October**

There remains much work to do among the saints in Peru, especially among the brethren in smaller communities. This trip will take me first of all to Paita and Sullana on the northern part of the country. David Guerrero in Paita, as previously reported, is doing an outstanding work in Paita, Sullana and other communities. Carlos Pérez of Puente Piedra, north of Lima, will be my companion.

Plans are to return to Lima from the northern part of Peru and have day classes with the preachers and brethren who can meet with me. This type of work has proven to be a good means to study, deal with Bible questions and encourage the men in their local duties.

### **Costa Rica - November**

The trip is planned right after Thanksgiving week and goes into the first week in December. Plans call to work with and assist in the beginning of new local works. Santiago Soto (Alajuela) and Marvin Soto (Alajuela) are presently working on plans to make two (2) new works a reality in San José. These are needed.

Marvin Soto has joined the list of fulltime preachers. Marvin is not a novice in this work having devoted most of his life to preaching the gospel in Costa Rica and Panama. He has partial financial support and is seeking additional support. I recommend him to you.

Finally: Thanks to each member at Beach Street for your part in my evangelistic work and to the elders for their faithful partnership. I ask for your continued prayers and support.

Yours,  
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