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May 2021 Newsletter

May 31, 2021

Beach Street CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear brethren at Beach Street,

Thanks to God and to you at Beach Street for making possible the preaching work I am doing amid the severe pandemic crisis in all the Americas. Most of the Latin American countries remain under quarantine. It is not yet possible to visit and work among many of our brethren. However, a minimal number of countries (Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Peru) remain open to visitors – but under strict restrictions. Glad to report that I am vaccinated and practicing safe protocols – willing and determined to continue preaching Christ where possible. Thanks so much for your prayers, understanding, concern and financial assistance.

Miami, Florida –

My flight schedule to the Dominican Republic took me from Houston to Ft. Lauderdale to Santo Domingo. I spent both nights in the home of Ivan & Cecilia Palomino. The Flagler Spanish-speaking church met May 17th, Monday night and again on May 25th, Tuesday night – and invited me to speak at both assemblies. My 1st lesson was titled “*They Did Not Believe*” (Mk 16). My 2nd lesson was titled “*Apostolic Authority*” (1 Cor. 4). Excellent attendance when you consider the church meets regularly on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons. Iván Palomino is the local evangelist.

Dominican Republic –

In Santo Domingo, as scheduled, I visited and worked with brother *Arcadio Mañon Ozuna*. Arcadio labors with the local church in El Mamón. The church building is about 30 minutes from Arcadio’s residence. I also preached my lesson titled “*Apostolic Authority*” (1 Cor. 4) because it is a timely and urgent lesson. I am teaching this lesson everywhere I have an opportunity to preach. Attendance was in the 50’s at all of their assemblies. The congregation is made up of people of all ages. It has a good future based on the large number of young people.

The church at El Mamón has not escaped the corona virus. Several older folks contracted it, two of them were in critical condition – but are presently doing much better according to the brethren.

Arcadio is doing a good work with the local church at El Mamón. He also accepts invitations to preach from several area congregations, some of these of the institutional persuasion. As a precaution, I chose to work only with Arcadio and El Mamón church – hopefully in my next trip it will be safer to venture into the areas where other churches are located.

Santa Catarina, Mexico –

The third week in June I will be flying to Monterrey, Mexico, to visit and preach with the local church at Santa Catarina – a suburb of Monterrey. This is one of several congregations that I had a part in their beginning – a good number of years ago. I preached many meetings for this

congregation and others in the metropolitan area of Monterrey. The present preacher is brother Lázaro Garza.

Future preaching destinations –

The remaining months of 2021 I plan to work among churches in Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Peru. Iván Palomino and I will finally be making our trip to Peru in October – when the country is scheduled to be open to visitors.

Additionally –

Emilio Lerzundi is one of several preachers in Lima, Peru -- his wife, Rosa, succumbed to COVID-19 last month. Emilio and Rosa were my first contacts when the late Bill H. Reeves and I visited and preached in Lima some 30 years ago. Emilio and Rosa worked together vigorously in the Lord's Vineyard. Rosa was a lady given to hospitality – even during the last several years when she suffered terribly from breast cancer.

Zaragoza Algara (Brownsville, Texas) – originally from Xonacatlán, Mexico – succumbed to Leukemia this month of May. Zaragoza and I worked together in starting the Tacuba church in Mexico City and the church in Xonacatlán (he preached the gospel among his family in Xonacatlán and most of them are faithful Christians today.) Zaragoza had minimal secular education – selling newspapers as a young boy in Mexico City. He took up boxing as a teenager – boxing in the public arenas in and around Mexico City. Later he heard and obeyed the gospel and quickly started to preach along the border – on the Mexican side – before returning to Mexico City and Xonacatlán. Please remember his wife Oralia and their extended family in your prayers. Moisés, Zaragoza's only son, is preaching the gospel locally in Matamoros, Mexico.

May the God of mercy and love continue to bless you and your loved ones – and may His word continue to guide you in all that you do locally and in the foreign field. This is my prayer to God.

Best regards,
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