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2023 January Newsletter  
February 11, 2023

### Beach Street CHURCH OF CHRIST Ft. Worth, TX

Esteemed brethren at Beach Street,

This month's newsletter is going a few days late. After returning from my preaching trip to **Costa Rica** (January 12-20), I tested positive for COVID. A couple of days later I passed it on to Minnie. Both of us were down for over a week – and remain with related issues even as I write this newsletter. Grateful that our three teenagers did not contract the virus this time.

Also, as you will recall from past reports, the last several months of last year brought us much concern because of Minnie's health problems. After several treatments last year, Minnie has seen improvement. More treatments are scheduled since her issues continue to some degree. According to her physicians, they are doing everything possible outside of surgery to help her manage her aches and pains.

### ALAJUELA, COSTA RICA – January 12-20

It was back in 1987 that I made my first preaching trip to **Costa Rica**. Several good men – most of them have passed away – contributed to the beginning of the work in **Costa Rica** and in other Central American countries. Since that year I have made numerous preaching trips helping the churches in **Costa Rica**. Today, the largest of the local churches is the one in the city of **Alajuela**, where the international airport is located. Presently, there are two other local churches in the metro area. One in **San José**, the capital, and the other one in the suburb of **Alajuelita**. All three congregations are composed mainly of families from **Costa Rica** and **Nicaragua**.



Due to several issues connected with the pandemic, the church at **Alajuela** presently meets in the home of *Santiago Soto (one of the local preachers)*. The church is about to have a “good” problem: having to accommodate the large number of people attending their assemblies. (Notice the picture above of a recent assembly.) It is very encouraging to see the local church's growth.

Tribulations and afflictions are a real and major problem among Christians in Latin America. The religious, civil, and social influence of Catholicism remains a constant threat to Christians. I used Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians as an example of how early Christians lived and overcame their own tribulations. I also preached a lesson titled "The Message of Condemnation" (Mark 16:15,16) that serves as a real warning to people of all ages. Personal visits and studies continue to be my best method of teaching the gospel. I treasure the opportunities to preach in Costa Rica and in any other Latin American country.

I commend the preaching work that *Santiago Soto* and *Marvin Soto* are doing in Costa Rica. Santiago is the older brother to Marvin – both men are highly respected by the brethren because of their work and faithfulness. In your daily prayers, please continue to remember these good men, their families, and the people they are working with in Costa Rica.

### **Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico – February 18-25**

My next preaching trip is about two weeks from today's date. I will be working with the **Gómez Farías** church in **Guadalajara**, the first sound local church in the city established in 1966. Brother *Samuel Ybarra* is one of several men that serves the church in their preaching program. Additionally, I will be teaching my lessons on "PREPARÁNDONOS PARA SERVIR" (English: "Preparing Ourselves to Serve") Monday through Friday afternoon. Please remember this effort in your prayers.

### **Finally –**

I remain grateful to God and to everyone who is making it possible for me to dedicate my life to the work of an evangelist. On January 27th I celebrated my 77th birthday. I started preaching fulltime in October 1965, some 57 years ago. For many years you have demonstrated your concern and trust in the work I do – I am totally grateful.

I continue going into Latin America – and look forward to continuing for many more years – preaching the gospel in the Spanish language among local churches of Christ. Also, any other place where there is an open door.

As I have stated earlier, nearly all of these Christians in Latin America face some kind of opposition in their daily living as Christians. They have been taught (Acts 14:23) that tribulations are associated with our lives as Christians. They expect it and continue faithfully serving God. Their faithfulness encourages me in my daily living as a Christian.

In the love of Christ,  
Ruben C. Amador