



INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS BÍBLICOS INTERNACIONALES

EN LINEA • ON LINE

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2023

Welcome to our April 2023 Newsletter, here are some of our latest developments.

EBI Estudios Bíblicos Internacionales continues on as it has the first few months of this year. We are still in our class “APOLOGÉTICA CRISTIANA” or “Christian Apologetics” in English (presenting a reasonable/intellectual defense of the Christian Faith). We have about 3 more live classes and 3 more pre-recorded classes to go in order to finish it up.

As I stated in the last newsletter, we are planning trips throughout Latin America for this summer and fall. Initially we were thinking of making a trip through Colombia to promote EBI this summer, but we have been offered the opportunity to attend a large Christian conference that is going to be held in October in the Dominican Republic. We will get much better exposure as there will be churches represented from all over Latin America and there should be several hundred in attendance. We have decided to focus on that opportunity and possibly putting the Colombia on hold until next year. Through prayer, God will guide us in the direction we need to go.

Things are going smoothly without too much else to report, so I thought that I would devote the rest of this newsletter to the progress and works going on with the Cuba Predica/Preach Cuba Program.

CUBA PREDICA/PREACH CUBA

As discussed, Luis got the program up and going at the end of January during his last mission trip. There were 11 more baptisms in March, which brings our total within the Cuba program to 35 baptisms since January of this year (even some in a 55 gallon barrel !!!).

Our work there primarily started in Dos Palmas and Palmas Soriano, Cuba and has since expanded into the City of Santa Clara and the town of Hicotea. Our team in Cuba has already started making plans to continue expanding into other towns and neighborhoods surrounding these towns/cities.

Our team consists of 6 full time preachers. Eliobia, Eulises, Rafael, Erlich, Vladmir and Rolando. We also have Yamerilis as our program secretary/organizer on the ground in Cuba.

HOW IT WORKS

First of all, I have to give the credit to our EBI students for opening the doors and clearing the path to make all of this possible. It is because of their hard work that Cuba Predica is a reality.



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They started these works before this program began and they are continuing to work with our preachers to continue evangelizing their own towns and surrounding neighborhoods.

Here is a quick snapshot of how they are evangelizing.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK

The preachers and Yamerilis meet several times a month to actually plan out all of the activities that they want to carry out the following month. This includes a **day by day schedule** of what each preacher is planning to do, including Bible Studies, visitation, church events, etc. I will attach the plan for April that they have already started to show just how detailed and diligent they are. This group literally works for the Lord 7 days a week. **Please take a look at the attached plan to see the scope of what they are doing!!!**

CAMPAIGNS

Our preachers and students hold one or two campaigns a month in each neighborhood. This would be similar to the "Gospel Meetings" that we are familiar with, but usually only last a couple of nights. Our students coordinate with the preachers and then go out into the local neighborhoods inviting people to join them at the campaign. They make a list of people that commit to coming, they share the Gospel at the campaigns and then the preachers will follow up with the attendees several times and hold Bible studies with those that want to know more.

This has proven to be a very successful way for our students and preachers to evangelize and baptize people into Christ.

VIGILIA/VIGILS

Once a month, each church holds what they call a "Vigilia". The members of a congregation will plan a night where they come together to sing, pray, study together, watch a Biblical video or Christian movie, eat together and fellowship with each other.

Each church has their way of doing it, some meet from 8:00pm to midnight, while the church at Hicotea meets and 9:00pm and will worship together until 6:00am the following morning.

OTHER EVENTS

As well as campaigns, vigiliass, etc. they continue holding different events throughout the month for both the church members and people outside of the church. They will regularly hold special events for the children in the community which normally consist of watching Biblical cartoons, arts & crafts and snacks. Last February they held a special Valentines dinner for the elderly in the neighborhood. They also continue to hold special events where they invite the neighborhood to come be a part of their group by holding an open Bible Study on Tuesday nights open to everyone in town. Baptisms have been a proven fruit of this work as well.



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VISITATION/EVANGELISM

As you will see in their “April Plan”, visitation is a large part of their evangelism. Not only are they bringing new brothers and sisters into the church, they have been visiting and restoring several past members that have fallen away and have stopped going to church altogether. I wish I had some kind of count of restored members, I don’t, but Yamerilis has sent me several text on members that have been restored. They also hold Bible studies and visit the sick in the neighborhoods.

THE CHRISTIAN CENTER

I know that I have mentioned this in past newsletters, but each time Luis goes to Cuba, he takes video projectors, cables, tablets and other things to broadcast movies, Bible lessons, etc. onto a blank wall or makeshift screen.

Our students and preachers have been using these tools for all kinds of events and outreach into the community. The church buildings have started becoming a “community center” of sorts because it gives the local people a place to go watch special broadcast such as news or National Programs and other things that would otherwise be impossible for many to see.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

Right now, we are supporting 6 full time preachers and we should be able to start supporting 7 fulltime in July. Our goal is to finish out the team with 3 more preachers. It takes just \$125/month for each preacher to make this a reality. Below is how you can help.

How You Can Help Estudios Bíblicos Internacionales & Cuba Predica/Preach Cuba

First: Remember, we are a privately funded program. Here is how you can help:

The First Street Church of Christ has graciously agreed to handle our donations in the U.S.

TO GIVE, simply go to www.givelify.com, search **First Street Church of Christ**, enter the amount and then choose either “**EBI - Estudios Bíblicos Internacionales**” or “**Cuban Preacher Program**” or you can mail a check to:

First Street Church of Christ, 204 W 1st Street, Lampasas, TX 76550 – be sure and put “EBI - Estudios Bíblicos Internacionales” or “Cuban Preacher Program” in the memo.

Secondly: You can help with Prayers, Prayers, Prayers!!!

Please keep this program in your prayers and pray that God can effectively use our students, teachers and everyone involved to carry the Good News throughout Latin America and the world.

May God bless each and every one of you for your support of this program,
Rocky Castleberry



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