



INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS BÍBLICOS INTERNACIONALES

EN LINEA • ON LINE

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2023

Welcome to our August 2023 Newsletter, here are some of our latest developments. We have had a lot of things happen at the end of July and the first of August so I will try and keep it short and to the point.

HONDURAS LECTURESHIP We were invited by a group of Honduran churches to hold a lectureship about the Organization of the Church, especially on the topic of Elders and Deacons, since many churches in Latin America are lacking this leadership. I flew to Honduras and held the lectureship in Tela, Honduras July 29th & 30th.

Fortunately, I had taught this course in our regular EBI classes earlier this year so we were well prepared. It was a huge success. We had over 100 in attendance with leadership and members of 17 different congregations in and around northern Honduras. There was a lot of great questions and comments and we supplied them with books and material to help explain the leadership positions and the selection process.

We were joined and supported by Juan Carlos, his family, Santos De Jesus Benegas and his family along with other EBI students that live in the area. We all felt that the lectureship was a HUGE success.

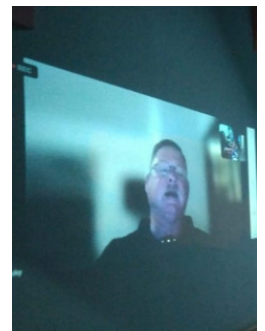
MONTHLY SERMON I believe that I touched on this in the previous newsletter, but I have began teaching a monthly class to our students 1 evening a month. This class is designed to help our students take the knowledge that they are learning in the main class and apply this to their personal lives, helping them to improve their personal walk and ministry with God.

I got a surprise this last class, one of the Cuban congregations took a projector and projected the class on the wall of a building downtown so that everyone in town could share in the lesson! They connected a Bluetooth speaker and the whole church group (as well as several town folk) sat on the lawn watching the class.

CHACON AGAIN!!! If you remember, Chacon, one of our students from El Salvador and now part of the team, has raised funds and made another mission trip to Cuba to preach and teach the Word.

This is very good timing as it came on the heels of Luis' last trip and continues to keep the excitement and momentum going.

He is a prime example of how our students are becoming teachers and leaders in the furtherment of the Kingdom.



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STUDENTS RECRUITING STUDENTS Lisanka and her husband, Henry, are students from Venezuela. They have started helping us to recruit new students in Venezuela. They have already brought a new student in July and are working with us to start spreading the word about EBI through several churches in Venezuela.

We also have other students doing the same. You know about Chacon from El Salvador and Santos Jesus. Santos not only helped organize the lectureship in Honduras, He is going to start working with us to promote and recruit for EBI.

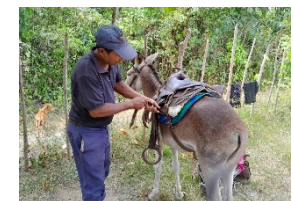
KIDS DAY!!! Three of the congregations in Cuba got together and held a “Kid’s Day” in Palmos Soriano. They had activities such as play time, arts and crafts, movie time and a whole lot more. I believe in the last newsletter or so I shared with you how the church holds a monthly “Grandparents Day” to honor the elderly in the congregations. It is uplifting to see the continuous work for the Lord by our students in Cuba and to see that they are constantly looking at more ways to use the resources that Luis has taken to them.



RAM PUMPS – If you remember, Luis bought 3 ram pumps and took them to the churches in Cuba in July. EBI bought seeds for medicinal plants so that the churches can plant gardens and provide medicinal remedies not only for their members, but they are working hand-in-hand with the local doctors to help relieve ailments to the people in their areas. Otherwise, many people would suffer or go without basic medical care due to the lack of resources.

Next on their list is to start a preacher training school. I am not sure when this will happen, but I do know that it is on their minds and on their hearts and we are moving towards that goal. Rolando has offered to be the main teacher and the entire team is excited to see this become a reality in the future. Please keep this and all of their efforts in your prayers.

ELIOBIAS – I couldn’t pass the opportunity of sharing this pic with you. Eliobias is one of our preachers in Cuba. He doesn’t have a car, but he does have a mule. Each day he saddles his mule and visits nearby villages and neighborhoods, holding bible studies and spreading the Gospel. I love his story because he uses what God has given him and it is everything he needs to be effective in bringing people to Christ. A car wouldn’t change a thing... I think that there is a good lesson in that. God has given each of us exactly what we need also. *Use it!!!!*



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NEW BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!

It wouldn't be a good newsletter if I didn't introduce you to our new brothers and sisters. Our students baptized 6 more people in July. I believe that brings this year's total up to 77 baptisms this year as of July 31th.



WHERE WE WANT TO GO

Right now, we are supporting 7 full-time preachers. Our goal is to finish out a 10 preacher team with 3 more preachers. We also want to assist Rolando, Erlich and Yamirelis in creating a formal preacher training program in Cuba. It takes just \$125/month for each full-time preacher. 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, 201 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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