



# INSTITUTO DE ESTUDIOS BÍBLICOS INTERNACIONALES

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## MAY NEWSLETTER 2023

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

I Speak Spanish May 2023 has been a **red-letter** month for me personally. I have reached a goal that I have been working towards for 4 years. Although I have taught Bible classes over the years in English, this May I started teaching my first EBI class in Spanish. It is a 3-part lectureship, and the topic is “The Organization of the Church” which covers Christ, the head of the Church, Elders, Deacons and Evangelist/Preachers. I am breaking down the qualifications, responsibilities and relationships of each of these topics.

This series has garnered a LOT of attention and interest due to the fact that very few churches in Latin America have Elders and Deacons. I personally know of 4-5 churches that are attending this lecture series with the intent of taking the information back to their home congregation to attempt to start an Elder selection process.

After the first session, I was invited along with Juan Carlos to hold a lectureship on this topic in Honduras at the end of July. There is such a strong interest in this topic because many churches just don't know how to start and many eligible men feel intimidated due to a lack of education on this topic. Please keep this project in your prayers as it has the potential to positively affect many churches throughout Latin America.

Juan Carlos's Trip Juan Carlos made the first of his 2 trips lined up this year for Central America and southern México. This trip he was a guest lecturer for a group of about 300 people, including preachers from various congregations. He then went onto El Salvador, met up with “Chacon” and promoted EBI to several churches in his area. The trip was a success, we added 20 new students from Honduras and 8 new students from El Salvador.

Chacon has now officially become a part of the EBI team. He will organize and assist us in covering El Salvador and the northern Central American area for promotion, trips and special events. If you remember, Chacon is one of our students from El Salvador that raised his own money and took a mission trip to Cuba last December.

CUBA PREDICA/PREACH CUBA The churches and preachers we are working with are continuing to grow and multiply. In Cuba, our students and preachers baptized 18 more people in April, bringing the total for 2023 up to 53 souls so far. As you know, we have been working in Dos Palmas, Palmas Soriano, Santa Clara and Hicotea. A couple of our preachers have started “expanding the circle” and have started reaching out to communities approximately 30 km (20 miles) away. That doesn't sound like much if you live in states, but that would be equivalent to covering a 60 mile circle here.



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**Meet your new brothers and sisters in Christ!**



## **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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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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