



INSTITUTO DE
ESTUDIOS BÍBLICOS
INTERNACIONALES
 EN LINEA • ON LINE

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023

Welcome to our October 2023 Newsletter, here are some of our latest developments. If you remember, in September we discussed Juan Carlos' upcoming trip and our new evening class. See the details below.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Juan Carlos' trip was very successful and we feel it exceeded the goals of the trip. We enrolled 12 more students at the conference, but more importantly, EBI was introduced to a complete new sector of Latin America and we are becoming more and more recognized throughout the Spanish Speaking world.

Also, there was a lot of excitement and many of the attendees/preachers took EBI information back to their home congregations and we are already starting to see additional enrollment from that.

I will end the newsletter with Juan Carlos' report.

TEXAS Okay, here is something that we weren't expecting, but kind of popped up. One of our students, Erlich, from Cuba actually got his immigration status accepted and has moved to McAllen, Texas!!! First, I want to stop here and explain, all of students are highly devoted and very active in furthering the Kingdom. You have heard me brag about our student's work and accomplishments over the past 2 ½ years including preaching, teaching, baptizing, planning and making their own mission trips.

Erlich is no different! The first thing he did before leaving Cuba was to ask me for church contacts in South Texas. He has already found a church home and has began to work, including promoting EBI in and around the Spanish speaking congregations in South Texas. He has only been there a couple of weeks and we have already started receiving new students from his work.

STUDY OF ROMANS If you recall, I mentioned that we were going to start a weekly 1 hour class alternating between Tuesday nights and Thursday nights due to different people's schedules. I landed on a 34-week, intense study of the Book of Romans. I have stepped up to be the teacher of this particular class because Romans is one of my favorite books and this is an excellent way for me to contribute to the school while continuing to enhance my Spanish skills.



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We had our first class last Tuesday night (across 3 time zones!!!) and it was a huge success. We had an outstanding attendance and even had attendees that aren't "enrolled" in EBI. Of course, everyone is welcome!!!! I don't really know how many we had because although we had about 30 devices connected to Zoom, some of the videos coming back were from classrooms with 15-20 people in attendance, plus we had close to 30 Cubans connected by a WhatsApp group call.

My local preacher asked me on Sunday how the class went, and I told him I was joyful and overwhelmed. If I had to guess, maybe we had somewhere around 70 people??? But here is the joy I get from teaching this class. If we had 70 people studying the Bible together, that is 70 hours that we were able to steal from Satan and his ability to tempt us. That along with the constant adding of souls to the Kingdom are what drives me in this program.

NEW BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!

It wouldn't be a good newsletter if I didn't tell you about our new brothers and sisters. Our students baptized 9 more people in September. I believe that brings this year's total up to 91 baptisms (that we are aware of) this year as of the end of last month (September).

Trip Report to the Dominican Republic

Juan Carlos García Valle

Destination: Ibero-American Preachers' Meeting of the Church of Christ in the Dominican Republic.

Route: Land travel from Nicaragua to Costa Rica, followed by a flight (Copa) departing from Costa Rica to the Dominican Republic via Panama.

Dates: Departure from Nicaragua to Costa Rica on Saturday, September 30th. Departure from Costa Rica to the Dominican Republic on Monday, October 2nd. Return to Costa Rica on Monday, October 9th.

Duration: 8 days in the Dominican Republic.

Contacts: Brother Lucrecio Mercado, Church of Christ in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic (General Coordinator of the Meeting), who was responsible for facilitating the opportunity for us to promote EBI at the Meeting. Preachers from various congregations

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in both the Dominican Republic and different Latin American countries who learned about the Study Program and committed to promoting EBI in their congregations to encourage brothers and sisters to study the courses we offer.

Purpose: The purpose of the trip was to further promote EBI across Latin America by presenting EBI to over 200 leaders and preachers from the Church of Christ who attended the Meeting from different countries. The objectives included promoting EBI among attendees who might be interested in studying the courses and establishing relationships with individuals willing to contribute to EBI by teaching classes in the future or conducting virtual seminars for our students.

Activities and Commitments:

1. **Friday's Presentation:** We dedicated a specific time on Friday to discuss the EBI program, the courses we offer, and the requirements for joining us. We distributed 50 printed EBI brochures, which garnered significant attention from brothers interested in studying biblical courses. For example, our brother Eliezer Pérez has already enrolled in the EBI chat and has begun studying with us. He is also committed to promoting EBI among the members of his congregation.
2. **Sunday Sermon:** We had the opportunity to deliver the Sunday sermon at the Church of Christ in Ozama, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, one of the oldest and most influential churches on the island. During our visit, we also spoke to the congregation about EBI and provided contact information for anyone interested in joining us at the start of the next EBI course.
3. **Building Relationships with Teachers:** We established connections with some fellow brothers who are willing to collaborate by teaching classes at EBI in the coming year.

This trip was instrumental in expanding awareness of EBI and forging connections with individuals and congregations interested in our educational programs.

Achievements of EBI:

- Enrolled 12 new students for the upcoming EBI cycle in 2024, with the expectation of more joining in the coming weeks.
- Enhanced the visibility and image of EBI.
- Sought new collaborators for EBI.

It's evident that the expenses were well-allocated to achieve the goals set for the trip, resulting in the enrollment of new students and increased awareness of EBI's mission.

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WHERE WE WANT TO GO

Right now, we are supporting 7 full-time preachers in Cuba. We think we have a commitment for 3 more, to complete our team goal of 10 starting in 2024. We also want to assist Rolando, Yamirelis and others in creating a formal preacher training program in Cuba. I will expand on that a little later as the details start to develop, but please look inside your own heart, pray that this can become a reality and pray that God guides us every step of the way. Also, please consider being a part of this project. I can guarantee you that many souls will be saved.

Also, because of your continued support, souls are being added monthly. Thank you so much for giving and praying.

If you want to join in, 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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