

Panama Missions

News Update

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I Don't Regret A Mile, I've Traveled by Larry Brady



There is a song written by Howard Goodman that depicts the way I feel as we make plans for the rest of this year and 2026.

"I Don't Regret A Mile I've Traveled For The Lord, I Don't Regret The Times I've Trusted In His Word, I've Seen The Years Go By Many Days Without A Song, But I Don't Regret A Mile I've Traveled For The Lord."



It seems only a short time ago I traveled to the Republic of Panama with the U.S. military. On the Lord's Day I found myself at the Balboa Church of Christ preaching my first sermon in Panama. Little did I know where this ministry would go and the lives it has touched over the past 42 years. It was July of 1984 when I arrived in this country that would touch my heart and the heart of my family in ways we did not expect. It also touched countless others causing most of us to return time and time again. I truly do not regret the many flights, the many miles up and down rivers and traveling through different parts of the jungle of Panama carrying the gospel to these sweet people. What I discovered upon visiting the Darien province was remarkable people that were easy to love. They also were some of the sweetest and most caring people I have ever met.

In 2011 a clinic was built in the Darien province, named, "Clinic of Hope" and has helped thousands of people with better health. I cannot begin to name all of those who volunteered their time to serve others. We have a memory board with pictures of those who served in Panama and now have passed on for hundreds who have served.

However, the greatest joy was the hundreds of people that have put on Christ through being baptized. Five different congregations of the Lord's church were established, and several others were strengthened and began to grow, all because so many Christians gave their vacation time and their money to serve others. We have been part of many precious souls who turned from the old way of living and were baptized. What a joy that has been. Again, I do not regret all the

miles that I have traveled in this ministry. I am so thankful for the hundreds that have travelled to this beautiful part of the world to change lives for Jesus Christ.



Our September Medical team has a new face with Shron French who is employed with Southern Smiles in Millbrook, Alabama, Dr. Stephen Scott. She examined the teeth of children while encouraging them to keep them clean and how best to care for their teeth. She went to each class at the Sanson elementary school with a smile and a stuffed animal checking their teeth. She has plans to return this coming June.



Many years ago, I can't remember how many, Doctor Russ Burcham, ophthalmologist called me, desiring to travel to Panama to help restore the sight to the blind. His comment to me was, *"I want to use the talent God has given me to help others."* True to his word, he and his wonderful wife Vicki, have made many trips to this beautiful part of the world to make a difference in the lives of others taking with their dedicated support personnel. During the past medical campaign in February they broke records operating on 291 people. His team is composed of three surgeons and support personnel. They live in

Cherry Hills Village, Colorado. Larry Brady

Each year in Panama our medical team reaches out and serves hundreds of people with little or no access to healthcare and this year was no exception. Our team traveled into the Darien jungle providing healthcare to many. A great blessing we received is the collaboration with Senafront, the elite



National Border Patrol that provides transportation, security, room and board and interpreters for our team. They are truly part of the Panama Mission team. Team members, Janet Howell and Sarah Stroult took on projects for the children in the villages. I am thankful to Beverly Martindale from Batesville, Ms. For working hard collecting medicines for our clinics. God has truly blessed us with helping those less fortunate. "If no one knows I exist then no one knows I live" (anonymous) Panama Missions is there because we know they live. Diane Edrington, Medical Director Long Beach, MS.

Water filtration

“Approximately 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water. Over 785 million people do not have basic drinking water services. Many communities rely on contaminated sources, increasing health risks. Water scarcity affects more than 40% of people worldwide.” World Health Organization.

It was in 2010 when I first discovered that many people in Panama do not have safe drinking water. Since that time hundreds of people have joined me in making contributions to help bring safe drinking water by using the Sawyer water filter system. The late doctor Joe Wilhite said, *“If people could only have clean water, it would change their health a hundredfold.* To answer the questions of many, *“do we still distribute these filters.”* **The answer is yes. There is a water filtration video on our website.**



Operation Christmas Joy 2025 was a great success with Christmas gifts being delivered all over the country of Panama. Churches and individuals from many locations both far and wide delivered their gifts to Montgomery. The container was loaded and arrived in Panama bringing joy to thousands of children. This year was a banner year because we had to send two containers. The second container had a special Christmas gift for a crippled young man. He received a specially designed wheelchair that

makes his life easier. I always look forward to this time of the year although I know it's a lot of work but brings so much joy and happiness to children in Panama. Thank you all for your dedication.

Meteti Church building get a facelift!

Three of the church buildings located in the Darien province received a much-needed facelift when a congregation from Michigan made a substantial donation to Panama Missions. The brethren are very thankful they were able to make their buildings more comfortable and more attractive. I am thankful God has blessed us with generous contributors over the years. I know that these brothers and sisters will use their facilities to God's glory.



Schedule for through June of 2026.

Operation Christmas Joy 2026 10-18 December

Medical team to the Darien hosted by Senafront police date TBA.

Surgery team led by Doctor Russ Burcham Bocas del Toro, Panama TBA.

Evangelistic February/ March 2026 J.W. Furr and Mark Dillman Sanson Panama

Medical/evangelistic 28 May-June 5, 2026 Sanson Panama led by Larry Brady

About 15 years ago a young Senafront police officer paid me a visit at the Clinic of Hope. He was seeking out medicine to help them with some very sick people. I gladly shared what we had, which was what they needed. This led to a long friendship between me and this young officer. His name is Larry Solis, the sitting police commissioner currently. Larry has been able to use his promotion to help us in our ministry in the Darien province of Panama. He and his family have become very close to Betsy and me, and we look forward to a continued relationship with him and the government of Panama. We are not restricted in any way from preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. I cherish his friendship and always look forward to visiting him and his wife Yuraso.



In the spotlight by Larry Brady

Beverly Martindale traveled to Panama on her first trip in 2006 and has made many trips since that day. She found people she loved and became closely attached to many of them. She was always ready to return each year, sometimes more than once. One congregation, the El Tiroa church located not far from the entrance to the Darien province, needed a new church building. Beverly took it upon herself cooking and selling pecan brittle and using the proceeds to build the church building. Each year she spends a lot of her own money collecting medications to be used in medical campaigns throughout Panama. She is truly a godly woman who loves others and put Christ first in her life. She always has her ever present smile. We love you, Beverly. Beverly is currently battling cancer and desires our prayers; however, this has not kept her silent. She continues to collect medicines and encourages her congregation to be involved in Operation Christmas Joy. Beverly and husband Micky live in Batesville, Mississippi. They attend the Batesville Church of Christ.



If you desire to donate to this ministry you may do so by mailing it too, post office box 451 Hope Hull, Al 36043. You may designate where you want your contribution to the spent. You may also donate from our website, Panamamissions.net

May God bless each and everyone of you for being part of this ministry for so many years.