

Panama Missions Report August 2026

I pray you all are doing great and in good health. We do appreciate your continued support of Panama Missions. So many have supported this great ministry from its beginning in 1984. We could never perform any kind of ministry anywhere in the world if it were not for the encouragement and the financial support of local churches and individuals. The following is a brief summary of what is being done and was done on recent trips to the beautiful country of Panama.

It is hard to believe the Clinic of Hope has been open for 15 years. Where we don't have a full-time medical person working there, we do try and keep OTC meds there for those who can't afford other meds, and we periodically have medical teams that work there and travel to local communities. Dianne Edrington the Medical director for



Clinic of Hope

Panama missions continues to take teams supported by the Senafront police to outlying communities. I

do not try to travel with all teams but am focusing my time with two other brothers on encouraging the congregations throughout the area and making more evangelistic efforts.



Dr Russ Burcham

Dr. Russ Burcham, Ophthalmologist from Denver is now coming to Panama two times a year, the next one in late September. This is always an amazing trip to see the blind have sight restoring surgery. This past trip was located from Bocus del Toro, in March they performed almost 300 surgeries. Dr. Burcham always want to make sure to share the gospel with as many people as possible. So, they may learn how God can work in their lives. It is important for them to see spiritually as well as physically. Thousands have had this surgery over the years and Dr, Burcham and his team plan on returning to Panama if he continues in good health. When I watch them work, it demonstrates what compassion is all about. Dr

Burcham says they will continue following the example of Jesus and using the talent God has given him and others.

People ask me when I am going to retire. I plan on going as long as I can be productive and can safely travel. I am in good health as is Betsy, but we do have aches and pains however God has blessed us with the ability to go and make a difference in the lives of others sharing the gospel all along the way. I do not attempt to keep up with the numbers as to how many people have been baptized or restored but there have been many and I am privileged to have been part of their lives. I even received a gift from a prisoner from the island of La Palma telling me how much it meant to him to learn about Jesus Christ and baptizing him. It touched my life and made all we do and all the efforts worth it. Every person that obeys the gospel and every church that is established or strengthened each one of you is a part of that.

On our June mission trip, we had a team of 15, some who traveled for the first time. We hit the



Group heading upriver

ground running, traveling into the rainforest on Saturday with local youth and church members having devotionals and learning so much about life in the rainforest. All wanted to know how people survive under these circumstances and it was indeed a learning experience for everyone. The rest

of the time we spent working in the community of Meteti. In the morning time was for visiting around the community inviting people to VBS with the smaller children. In the afternoon

there were classes for teenagers as well and different games. We completed our day with a gospel meeting. One young man, Eli Wilburn preached his first sermon with a translator gave one of the greatest lessons on baptism and the importance of it I have ever heard. All were proud of him. He did a superb job and was well prepared. There were Bible studies throughout the week with much interest on



Learning how to survive in the rain

learning more about baptism and why it is so important. We ended the week by traveling to an Indian community where we spent our time learning of their culture and sharing with the local children about Jesus Christ. Joshua Holiday minister of the Cedar Grove Church and his son made their first trip to Panama. Both were a tremendous addition to our team. He has a strong desire to become a missionary. Josh's strong point was open Bible studies as he conducted several during the week. Those studies are being continued by the local minister Luis Tojin. All the young people were so moved by what they had participated in during this week they became very emotional as we departed with a determination to return.



Christmas Joy as are people all over the U.S. On the 15th travel to Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and parts of Alabama picking up Christmas gifts. Others will deliver their gifts to our warehouse in Montgomery. There has been an outpouring of stuffed animals and other items we can use. One thing that would be helpful is good towels or purchase inexpensive towels so that we can continue making our bags for mothers. We also need

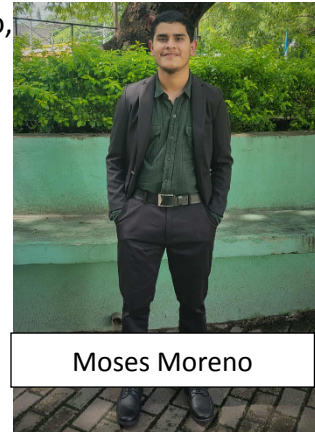
different types of hygiene items that can be put in the bag. We are also working on Christmas stockings and need a lot of items, both boy and girl. Small toys, no toy guns etc. but small games, jump ropes, toy cars and anything that will make a child happy and will fit in a stocking. These stockings are for 5–7-year-old children. We will load our container the first week of November and then travel on the 8th of December to distribute gifts. What a joy it is to give out the gifts.



Preparing stockings in
Montgomery for Panama

We support 8 different congregations of the Lord's church, throughout Panama. Metec and Santiago both have full-time ministers. The others we provide a part-time salary.

I am happy to announce that we have a young man, Moses Moreno, the Sanson Church of Christ going to Baxter school of preaching located in Honduras. He is completing his first year of Bible studies and later when he's nearing completion he will work for six months somewhere in Panama to learn more about preaching and the responsibilities that go with it. We have a sponsor for him from the Montgomery area so he can continue his studies.



Moses Moreno



Urian Ponce

We also have a full-time coordinator in Panama. Without her we would be unable to function because she makes all arrangements for transportation, clearance for medical teams and translates as well. She helps us obtain other translators for without them no team could survive. Her name is Urian Ponce from the town

of David in western Panama.

I have a little room left on the fourth page of this report and so I thought I would give some encouragement and speak of the rewards of helping those and never expecting anything in return.

That has been my motto over the years, *help someone who cannot pay you back*. Of the many people that have been recipients in this great ministry we are the ones they get the greatest return. My wife and I decided years ago to go into foster care under Agape. One case that comes to my mind was a four-year-old by the name of William. I received a call from a former foster child a while back. He thanked us for allowing him to be in our home and to be part of his life. I asked him how life was going for him and I was not ready for the results. He told me that he was a major in the United States Air Force, teaching at the Air Force Academy with a PhD. Of course, he also wanted to know if we had any photos of when he and his sister were small of which we did not because we were not allowed to exchange pictures with others because of obvious reasons. The point is I never expected when he came to live with us what he would become. When you first start helping someone you never realize what return you will get. There have been so many people in Panama that not only my family but hundreds of people that have travelled with us that truly made a difference, and they never forget you all though it might have just been a small thing. As one old chief told me, small for you but big for us. I encourage, you whether it be in Panama or some other part of the world, even though you may never travel there you can be a part of someone's life. Thousands of Christmas gifts will be sent



to Montgomery this year to be loaded on our container the first week of November. These gifts go to children who have so very little in their lives. It does not have to be Panama it could be your community next door or down the street reach out and be part of someone's life who cannot pay you back. We have wonderful supporters who loved this mission work even though they've never traveled there, I know they still love it and they love me I am thankful to have so many godly

people who support us.

Again, thank you all for being part of this great ministry for so long. If there are other things you need to know please do not hesitate to drop me an e-mail or even a text and I will be happy to provide the information needed.

May God richly bless each one of you as you continue to serve him.

Larry

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