

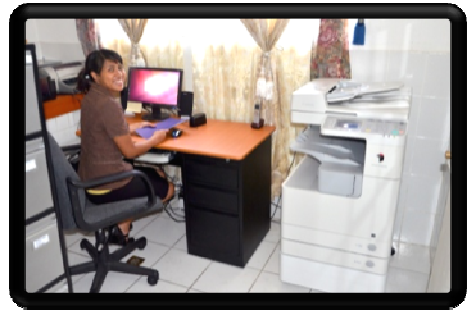
# INSTITUTO TEOLÓGICO LATINOAMERICANO

(LATIN AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE)

April 2012

## New Copier

At the end of last year, the church in **Wewoka, Oklahoma**, graciously contributed funds for us to purchase a copier for the school. This was such a blessing because the amount of copies that we provide to our students in both programs was getting quite costly. After returning to Guatemala in January, we began to look at our best options. After careful thought, we decided to purchase a new Canon copier. We were able to get this copier for about the same price that refurbished machines were costing. As you can see in the picture, it is a really nice addition to our office and we are very thankful to the church of Christ in Wewoka for their generosity.



## Saturday Program

Our Saturday program continues to move forward. At the end of 2011, **Blanca Perez** completed the three-year program. She is a member at the **San Lorenzo Church of Christ** in a small village just outside of the city of Antigua Guatemala. After the quarter that just ended last month, our own **Maclovio Calderon** from the **Linda Vista Church of Christ** also completed the three-year program. However, because of the recent loss of his daughter he has to make up a couple of items, but is in the process of completing them. Both of these students will graduate next year during our graduation ceremony for both programs.



We currently have eight students. Those students that have been in the program for some time are **Victor Ajuchan** and his wife, **Sandra**, and **Elisandro Perez** from San Antonio, Villa Nueva. These brothers are leaders in the church there and Sandra is actively involved, also. Elisandro is the tall brother in the middle, and Victor and Sandra are the two standing on the right in the picture. Also, the two sisters, **Nidia Aguire** and **Elena Aguire** (who wear typical Mayan clothes), from the Carolingia church in Mixco, continue to study in our program. They are very diligent students and we appreciate having them.

We also have had three additions to our student body. At the end of last year, two students from our own Linda Vista church began their studies: **Dinora Aguilar** (on the extreme left) and **Enrique Tovar** (next to Dinora). This quarter, one other student joined the group. He is **Dimas Davila** (pictured separately on the right), also from the San Antonio congregation and a faithful Christian for many years. We are grateful to have these new students in our Saturday program.



On **March 31**, the Saturday program began a new quarter. On this occasion **Anibal** and **Darvin** are teaching on Saturdays. Anibal is teaching **Personal Evangelism** and Darvin is teaching the **Letters of Paul I** (Romans – 2 Corinthians). This will allow us to “rest” a little from teaching on Saturdays, but we will probably find something else to do on Saturdays. 😊

## Full-Time Program

On Monday, April 9, we began a new quarter in the full-time program. On the plane on our way back from Italy, both of us were busy typing away on our laptops working on this newsletter, preparing for our classes and catching up on a few other items. This quarter **Anibal**, and both of **us** are teaching. Anibal is teaching the **Gospel and Epistles of John**. Hi is teaching **Advanced Homiletics** and Byron is teaching **1 & 2 Corinthians**. We arrived on Tuesday night and were in the classroom on Thursday!

## Holiday Gifts

We are very thankful to all of the individuals and churches that have become involved in our **Help Train Messengers**



ministry. Your support of the students is making a difference in more ways than just financially, though that is definitely a greatly appreciated way! The students also are thankful for your personal interest in them and in their preparation for the ministry. They were especially glad when at the beginning of the year we were able to present all of them with gifts made possible by their supporters. All of them got new study Bibles, a Bible dictionary, and a Bible manual. It was great to see their eyes getting



wider as we presented them with these gifts on behalf of our sponsors.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ITL Lectureship

This past March 16-17, we were blessed to celebrate the third year of hosting a lectureship. The theme this year was “**Escudriñando Bien las Escrituras**” (Searching Aright the Scriptures). The activities related to the event officially began on Thursday, March 15, with the **ITL’s President’s Banquet**. On Friday, our guests and several local brethren traveled to Guatemala’s City’s historic **Zona 1**, for a walk on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The lectureship took place on Saturday and Sunday. We rented the same facility as last year because we usually have a good enough attendance to merit a bigger facility than the church building.



We had a great group of speakers that presented powerful lessons for those who attended. **Alexander** and **Silvia Castellanos** returned again this year to teach separate classes for men and women. Their subjects were related to teaching the Bible in the home. We had two keynote speakers return this year, **Francisco Rada** and **Bob Turner**. Additionally, **Donnie Bates** returned and spoke in one of our workshops again this year. New to our program this year were **Bob Brown**, from Denver, Colorado, and **Pedro Batres**, from Managua, Nicaragua, who participated as keynote speakers. Also, new to our program was **Abner Ramos**, who taught a special teenage class. Abner is an ITL graduate and one of the evangelists at the new work in San Cristobal, Alta Verapaz.

Attendance this year was excellent. We had about 300 on Saturday, and around 500 on Sunday. There were about **18** congregations and **4** countries represented during the course of the event. The singing was excellent, the fellowship sweet, the preaching biblical and encouraging, and all of us were greatly blessed! We are so thankful to the churches and individual Christians who blessed us with their presence.



## Campaigns

At the end of last year, prior to going on their holiday break, the full-time students went to three different places for their three work weeks. The churches that host our students commit to providing food and lodging. We provide the students with their transportation to and from their assigned location. **Walter** and **Nohelis Dardon** worked with the **Linda Vista** congregation. **David Avila** and **Alejandro Tot** worked in **Coban**, with Darvin Alvarez. And our Panamanian students, **Eliezer Perez** and **Gabriel Gonzales**, traveled to **La Esperanza**, Quetzaltenango, to work with the brethren there. We wish we could include more details about their work, but space constraints do not allow us that luxury. What we can say is that the local churches were very encouraged and have requested our students to return. In fact, the church in La Esperanza requested our students to return every week! That is not possible at this time, but it will be a request we will have to seriously consider.

## New Work in San Cristobal

We are so excited to report that the new church plant in **San Cristobal**, Alta Verapaz, is going very well. During our end-of-year travels, many of you were able to see pictures of the team that began this in **May of 2011**. The names of those on the team are: **Abner Ramos**, **Francisco** and **Erminia Ramos** (and **Jonathan**), and **Wilder** and **Marley Ordoñez** (and **Julissa** and **Jose David**). We also shared that the team, after much work and patience, saw their first two converts in August of



2011. Since then, there have been two other additions through baptisms, several restorations, and they have 20 - 25 children from the community that have been coming consistently after the church hosted a Vacation Bible School this past December (school is out here in mid-October through mid-January). It is exciting to see how God is giving the increase in this city that previously had no church of Christ.



You may also not believe this, but this new church in San Cristobal has already planted their first new work in **Las Pacayas**! This small village is about 30 minutes north of San Cristobal. Allow us to share the beautiful story of how this took place.

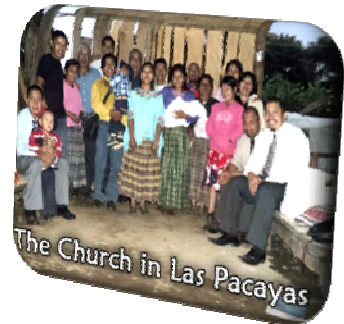
In 1979, **Victoriano Max** was baptized by **Joe E. Lee**, a missionary well known to the brethren in Guatemala. Victoriano became very involved in helping in the work and in translating into the local language of Pocom. In the 80s, because of the conflict between Mexico and the guerillas, Brother Lee was not able to offer his presence. Sadly, the church eventually dissipated. Many of the Christians that did not flee or stop attending completely, began to attend the denominations.

Around 30 years later, while Victoriano was in San Cristobal recently, he saw the sign for the church, took down the number, and began to investigate if it was a New Testament con-



gregation. To his great joy, after talking with the preachers, he discovered he had found his family in Christ! The very next Sunday, he attended the worship service and was restored that same day. Soon, he brought another brother, who also was restored. Then, his wife was restored. Now, there have been 8 restorations, including a 96 year-old woman, **Marcela Moran**, who also was baptized by Brother Lee many decades ago.

Because of this wonderful response, it was decided to make the extra effort to begin the church again in Las Pacayas. On Sunday, **March 15** the Lord blessed the San Cristobal team to travel to this small village and to assemble with the church there for their first worship service after decades of having seen the church disappear. The assembly was held in the home of Brother Victoriano. Please rejoice with us and pray for this new work.



The San Cristobal team has sent out an invitation to the church at Linda Vista, Coban, San Pedro Carcha, and others to join them on **May 27** as they celebrate the **inauguration** of their work and celebrate their first year of having started it. The new church in Las Pacayas also plans to be present. We are looking forward to this wonderful time of fellowship. **Hi** has been asked to be the guest speaker. Linda Vista is planning to rent a bus and join our brothers and sisters for this occasion. It is about a 4 ½ hour drive, so we will be departing about 5:00 a.m.

Please keep these new works in your prayers. We want the Lord to continue to bless the efforts in Alta Verapaz and for the church to continue to be strengthened so that the light of the Gospel may continue to go forth to this part of Guatemala.

### **Thank You**

Please allow us to close this newsletter thanking you for your prayers, support and encouragement. We are excited about the many possibilities God is providing for us. We know that Satan has been very busy trying to keep ITL from existing, but God has been good and has provided for us abundant blessing in spite of and even through trials and difficulties. Truly, we serve a good God.

Porque Él vive (Because He lives),

*Hawatthia "Hi" Jones*

*Byron E. Benitez*

Please send all funds to our overseeing congregation, marked "Mission: Guatemala" to the following address:

**Kingsley Terrace Church of Christ  
Attn: Dwaine Himes/Mission: Guatemala  
2031 E. 30th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46218**

