



Bruce Martin Family Missionary Report

September 2021

Conferences in Mexico

One of the blessings that I enjoy at this stage of my ministry is to see the mature fruits of God working in the lives of leaders. On July 30, I had the privilege of participating in the ordination of Bro. Conrado Lopez, pastor of the independent Baptist church in the village of Maravillas in the state of Chiapas. I have had the joy of teaching Bro. Conrado for several years, But, most of his training has been the labor of the local leaders in his Indian tribe. The event was very well attended (as you can see by the photo). We had 13 preachers on his ordination council.

These types of events are very important to the believers in these parts of Mexico. They plan for them for several years and invite all the surrounding churches. They killed two cattle and fed over 600 hundred people for two days. There was singing group that travelled over 600 miles to participate.

After the ordination, I visited several churches in the area for special services. It reminds me of the early American history of churches that would have preachers that would ride a circuit to visit multiple churches. We had a blessed time in the towns of Pimienta and Somojovel.

The leaders in this area have been working for several years on a

new Bible translation in their Tzotzil language. The New Testament has been finished and they are now working on the Old Testament. We had hoped to start the printing of their New Testament, but the pandemic has shut down our capability to visit the print shops in Asia that we want to use for the project. God willing, we will be able to print it next year.



Attendees of the ordination of Bro. Conrado Lopez

Missionaries to Latin America



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Changes for the Conference Center in Chilón, Chiapas

For more than forty years, the independent Baptist churches of the state of Chiapas in Mexico, have been using a piece of property in the city of Chilón as a conference center. Over the years they have built buildings on it for meetings, kitchens, homes for the caretakers, and dormitories. The property is large with over 40 acres of land. However, because of the topography, they couldn't use much of it for buildings since there is very little level land. Most of it is pasture for cattle and growing coffee.

One of the concerns of the leaders of the churches is that the land hasn't had anyone to administrate the land and use its potential. They feel that its resources are being wasted. Also, there have been some attempts by squatters to take some of the land away from the conference center. Another problem has been both bad access to the property for vehicles and bad infrastructure for cell phone signals and internet.

Despite these problems, on this property they have conferences for preachers every three months, many

youth camps, and they meet for the work on the Bible translation. During the first week of August, I was able to return once again for a preachers conference. We had 59 churches represented by 87 preachers and 25 Sunday School teachers.

The leaders of the churches have decided to sell the property and use the proceeds to buy another conference center in a larger city with better infrastructure and access. They hope to have better buildings with more comfortable

spaces. Since God has used the present place for over 40 years to touch many hearts, many of the elder brethren are sad and upset to see such a cherished place lost. But, we feel that we need to move on to a better place.

Please pray the God will give wisdom to these leaders as they search for a buyer and also a new place for the Conference Center. We have scheduled the next conference for January, but we might have a new location by then.



This past August we had a three day preachers conference at the Conference Center

Waiting on a new addition to our family

Our son David and his wife Kelsi are expecting the birth of their second child, baby daughter Eliza, on September 1st. As of this report, she is already 12 days overdue. We are all on pins and needles every time the phone rings. They are having their baby in Argentina.

My wife and I are planning to travel to Argentina and spend about 3 weeks with them starting on the 23rd of September.

Please pray for Kelsi's delivery, the health of Eliza, and our trip to Argentina. With the pandemic restrictions, international travel is

very uncertain and the rules change daily. We are praying that the Argentinian authorities will allow us to enter and stay with our son. We expect to have to quarantine, but we hope they will allow us to quarantine in their home.