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Matthew 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded thee, and lo, I am with thee always, even unto the end of the world.” Discipleship: the key to growing a church. What a blessing it is to be teaching God's Word to believers of all ages, in all stages of growth so that they may teach others, (2 Tim 2:2) John 8:31 “Then Jesus said to those (Jews) which believed on Him: If you continue in my Word, then are you my disciples indeed.”

Besides the preaching of The Word and reaching the lost, discipleship is the most important thing we can do here for the sake of Christ, the Gospel and His Church. A well trained disciple will have learned how to reach and teach others for Christ. Recently, we awarded certificates of completion to a group of ladies who had finished their first, in a series of five discipleship courses. They are excited and more eager than ever. They are already more than halfway through the second one. Besides this more advanced group, we have another group who have started book one. There are a few who need special attention, not reading well or language problems (Piaroa vs. Spanish). We started a special class for these on Friday mornings. On Sunday afternoon, a couple young ladies come to our house for discipleship. They are in school when the other classes meet. The men are meeting every other Saturday, besides the regular Sunday and Wednesday night meetings to pray, exhort and encourage one another.

The work here in Venezuela continues on in spite of shortages of all kinds, high unemployment, and rampant crime. We don't get out much after dark although occasionally go to

town around 6-7 PM, at which time it is already dark but still busy with shoppers. Definitely need to be off the streets by nine and in your own home.

For this reason, we meet at 6:30 for our evening meetings and dismiss by 8 PM usually. On Sundays there is no public transportation so we meet early and longer and have no night meetings. Our Wednesday night meetings have shown a significant increase in attendance because we are meeting in our home, which is in town and easier to get to. Our daytime meetings are held at the church building which is on the edge of town. Right now where there are limited transportation options. Between our Explorer, and Brother Orlando's old pickup, we try to make sure everyone has a way home. Life here is definitely different and the dangers real. As the economic situation grows more desperate, so do criminals. We are thankful for God's protection.

We are in the process of digging a well on the church property. There is a community well and are supposed to have community water in the future, but they do not have the way to lay the pipe and knowing how things go here, it could be years. We have gone down about 12 meters and still digging. We think we are close, but have had several set backs, having lost our equipment down in the hole several times. and stopping to retrieve it. We have also helped dig another well on the property of our Piaroa missionaries, the Tovar family. They have done most of the digging there, but we helped with equipment, plus the men met there one morning for prayer breakfast, adding some muscle and a bit of encouragement to them. They hit water but need to go deeper since in dry months it dries up. The Tovar family have been very faithful to help with the well at the church also.



Receiving Certificate of Completion of Discipleship I



Orlando Gonzalez preaching in recent Tag Team Preaching Service. Orlando's wife Josefina went to be with the Lord recently at the age of 44.

With December coming up, we have lots of activities early in the month, but later, our folks travel to see their families in other cities and jungle communities.

Not having family relatives here ourselves, it gets rather quiet those days. But we use the time to catch up on the printing, lesson preparation, cleaning and ministry planning and a getting little rest.

The printing ministry has kept us plenty busy these days. So much so that we have not been able to go to the bigger city to get our Explorer repaired. The reverse went out on it over a month ago. (There is NO RETREAT in this ministry! Only ADVANCING for the Lord!) I devised a ramp of sorts to "roll out into the street" since Sandy and I could not push it out of the driveway by ourselves. Looks like it will be next year (January) before we can travel to get it fixed. After After Dec 15th everything shuts down for at least a month for the holidays, which can be exasperating if you need something. Some just hang a notice up: "will open up again after January 15th." No joke! I don't know how they stay in business. This is pretty high on the priority list for 2015.

At the back of our property a new neighborhood is developing which means that people are "land grabbing" to build their "home" on, usually a shack or tin building. It is common here for people just take the property they want (called an "invasion") and most times the government just looks the other way. Since half of our property has no building on it yet (we plan to build in the future) they tell us we must at least plant something on it so it won't be invaded. The men and I have put up a pretty sturdy fence all the way around with a gate in front and a smaller walk gate across the back. These new houses mean more people will be moving in who need Lord and a good church. What a great challenge for us in the coming days of the New Year.

One of our Piaroa missionary's older sons has been helping us some with the Bible and song book binding work. He recently graduated from Agriculture school and will be helping with their jungle crops. However, the Lord recently spoke to him about working with us in the ministry. Gabriel testified in prayer meeting one night that his plans were something else but the Lord had changed that and seemed to have different plans for him. Pray with this couple as they look to the Lord for how He will work that out. He and wife Nelly are in the jungle right now checking on the "conuco" or garden, which can be several acres. They hope to soon make enough to build a small house on a piece of property here in Caicara so they can serve the Lord. They have

four precious children who have been involved in our church for several years.

Prayer Needs:

- New neighborhood being built and our outreach.
- Church members and believers being discipled.
- Tovar family praying about coming to work with us in the ministry.
- Ford Explorer getting repaired. Big truck also waiting parts for repair.
- The severe economic and government problems affecting the whole country.
- For our health and the health of the brethren. Many tropical and other diseases threaten.



Digging the well at the church the old fashioned way.

Hard to believe that this year is almost history. Time has flown. Here it seems that

one week crashes into the next and months seem to blow by. On a comical, but serious note, we used to think it was sad that we could not get a turkey here (hard to find and terribly expensive). These days, if we could just find a CHICKEN for our Thanksgiving meal! (They seem to be on the endangered species list) We are grateful for Hamburger meat and tunafish these days.

As we wrap up these last few weeks of 2014, we are truly thankful to the Lord for His peace that passes understanding; and His provisions, both physically and spiritually through each of you: your prayers, support and notes are such an encouragement to us as we labor far from our family.

Jesus is the reason for it all.

"Let us not grow weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."
Gal. 6:9-10

Revelations 7:12b

"Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and THANKSGIVING, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen"

**Your co-laborers with Christ,
Melvin and Sandy**

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Advancing for the Lord. You do what you gotta do! Our Explorer had the Reverse go out on it. Had to do something to get out the driveway.