

# the Browns' Report

quarterly newsletter

Jerry & Vicki Brown, AGWM world missionaries

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Church and City Urban Resource Center

## Ecuador's Superintendent Launches a New National Vision

### Moving the Vision from dream to reality—from tents to churches.

Fausto's vision is based on his own experience in addition to what he observed in the history of the QTF. While serving as Presbyter for the Sierra District, he borrowed one of the Task Force tents and began to conduct short-term crusades at various points around the district with remarkable success revitalizing several churches and planting multiple new congregations.

In answer to the question, "How do we recapture the momentum we have lost?" he has proposed a plan for simultaneous campaigns in every province of the nation.

Here's the plan in a nutshell:

1. Recast the vision nationwide.
2. Train teams of pastors and discover new church planters in every province.
3. Purchase a tent for all twenty-four provinces.
4. Select the cities that show greatest promise.
5. Open the first five campaigns by mid-2011 and proceed as new tents arrive.

This endeavor proceeds totally from national church initiative, a quality that is far too precious to squander.

For the vision to become a reality we do need several churches or individuals to invest in a tent that will be used continually for the next 5 years to plant up to 3 churches and renew others. Each tent will cost \$12,000. Can you help with a part of that cost? Will you pray for the vision to become a reality?

Offerings may be sent to our AGWM account (#215779) for the Ecuador Tent Project,

### A brief conversation at the Educators' Summit in El Quisco sets the tone for a far-reaching vision to reach major population centers in Ecuador.

I had met Fausto Trujillo as the Presbyter of the Sierra District several years ago while doing post-graduate research in Quito. From the testimony of others I knew him to be a perceptive leader, and the Spirit-led pastor of the church we had planted in Riobamba. Like most of my colleagues, I was excited by the news of his election as the General Superintendent of the Ecuadorian Assemblies of God.

At the first General Council he presided, he took a risk to change the format and invited the pastors and leaders present to take a hard look at the health of the organization and the churches that comprise it. His report demonstrated that the churches had stopped growing and that new churches were not being planted. He divided the attendees into smaller work groups and assigned them the task of analyzing the history of the Assemblies of God in Ecuador to discover how to recover lost momentum. Each group was to respond to three questions: (1) When did we grow best? (2) What are the reasons for that growth? And, (3) What can we do now that will enable us to begin to grow again as an organization?

When each group reported their findings, they had all reached a consensus. Major growth focused on the ten years of the Quito Task Force. The work groups



cited the open atmosphere created by the tent campaigns that emphasized divine healing and the experience of the presence of God as the primary reasons for the growth. The question arises if it is possible to revive that atmosphere through a renewed aggressive evangelism using tents.

Fausto and the Executive Committee believe that this is God's time to launch a nationwide crusade utilizing tents in the major cities in every province of the country. Just imagine the impact of 24 tents in simultaneous campaigns all across Ecuador!

Fausto's request? "Hermano Jerry, will you come back to Ecuador to mentor us and provide training to use the tents as an evangelistic tool to renew existing churches and to open as many new churches as possible?" And of course, "help find donors for some of the tents we will need?"



## Jerry & Vicki 2011

### Church Growth Lima, Perú.

The Assemblies of God in Perú has implemented a national department to foment the growth and quality of its churches. In January I have been asked to address the National Congress on Church Growth on the theme, "Church Growth through Multiplication." This will be followed up by guiding regional leaders in developing a strategic plan to duplicate the number of churches in Lima.

### Evangelism Training Quito, Ecuador.

Our participation in the new Ecuador Vision begins in January. We meet with the Executive Presbytery to sketch out the preliminary plans for the initial campaigns and to define the extent of our involvement.

### Church Planting, Chile.

The Central District encompasses the metropolitan region of Chile with a population in excess of seven million. We now have 85 churches in the district. Superintendent Raúl Iturriaga and the Executive Presbytery envision planting an additional 70 over the next three years. They have invited us to serve as their mentor and to train a new cadre of church planters. Late summer and early fall we will conduct church planting "boot camps" for workers of three districts.

### Gaiman, Argentina.

Missionary Martin Jacobsen has requested us to teach and help in the development of a fourth year program in the Patagonia Bible Institute in Argentina. The fourth year students will concentrate in church planting. We will be in Patagonia during April and May.

## Prayer Partners Needed

### Ecuador's Tent Campaigns.

Experience has shown us that nothing happens without the prayers of God's people. We ask you to pray for us to have the wisdom necessary to mentor and train those who will preach and conduct the campaigns. Please add to your petitions that the Lord will provide the funding necessary to purchase the needed tents (\$12,000 each) to reach all of the 24 provinces. We need ten units to start the project.

### Our Missionary Budget.

We cannot properly express our amazement at the faithfulness of God's people who make our ministry possible. Thank you for the sacrifices you have made this year. We have been judicious in accepting invitations and evaluating potential projects. However, in order to respond to the doors that the Lord has opened to us for this year we will need a miraculous increase in monthly support or a five thousand dollar miracle. We are convinced that if you will join us in prayer for these needs, the Lord will provide as he has so often done in the past!

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A random candid photo of attendees at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Those pictured include two members of the first class and other former students, the former president, current board and faculty members.

## Ancient-Future Leadership

### How do you approach the future as you celebrate the accomplishments of the past?

We were greatly honored to be invited as special guests and to preach the 25th anniversary of the Seminario Bíblico de las Asambleas de Dios in Quito (SEBAD-Q).

I borrowed my theme from theologian Robert Webber who states that the future of the Church in the post-modern age will be possible only if it makes an intentional return to the foundational principles that guided it during its first century. I spoke as one knowing the history of the Seminary, who had participated in its development. Upon returning to Quito for this event, several years removed from that day-to-day activity, it immediately became obvious that God's full plan for the founding of this school will be realized in future decades. The future lies ahead and the greatest growth of the Assemblies of God has not yet occurred.

But changes in Ecuadorian society have created the need for a new dimension of leadership. SEBAD now is able to offer an accredited Licenciatura in Pastoral Theology (equivalent to a B.A.) in cooperation with the Evangelical University. SEBAD's mission is to send professionally trained pastors, attuned to contemporary culture, balanced with the ability to use Scripture to bring people into relationship with Christ. This new leadership invokes images of the men of Issachar "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do (1 Chron 12:32)." The challenge is to enable students to balance theological education with the experience of God, so that as Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered men and women they will meet the challenge and impact the nation with the message of reconciliation.



Patricia Ribadeneira, serves as the President of SEBAD-Q. She is also the founding pastor of Resurrection Church, an exciting, growing congregation of young professionals located in the La Gasca sector of Quito. Patricia's dynamic leadership has restored the school to its founders' vision for preparing and sending out pastors, evangelists, and missionaries into the Harvest.



Vicki and Jerry with SEBAD-Q President Patricia Ribadeneira and Administrator Bolivar Arauz