



the Browns' SPRING 2010 REPORT

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SUPERINTENDENT RODRIGO ESPINOZA DREAMS OF 200 NEW CHURCHES FOR LIMA, PERÚ

At Church and City, WE also have a dream—training 500 new church planters for the major cities of Latin America.

This dream began many years ago while leading the Quito Task Force. I was confronted by the reality that even if I were able to plant two new churches per year, the city simply grew faster than we could respond to the need. **But, if I could just train ten others, what a difference it would make in our ability to reach a city like Quito.**

But there was a detour. Eight years of pastoring in California, although our church was able to mother two great congregations during that period. A Master of Arts in Missiology followed by a Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies, provided ample time to reflect on evangelism methods and the nature of the Church. That carried over into our ministry with *Facultad*, thinking, "Train the trainers, teach the teachers;" and the Bible schools will produce new church planters. However, I could never escape the fact that the original dream was escaping me. Simply, the call to multiply workers to plant churches in the city.

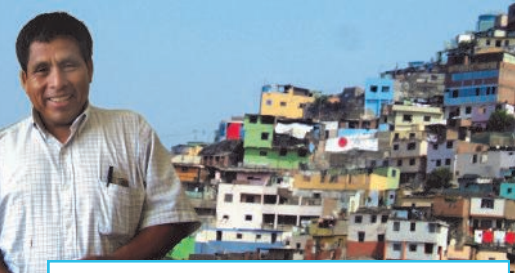
For the past year and a half, Vicki and I have been working to develop a set resources to create awareness of the need to evangelize and disciple the residents of Latin America's great cities. One great concern was what many have described as the loss of pentecostal identity among our churches and pastors. We developed courses for pastors and Bible school faculties dealing with the rediscovery and perpetuation of the DNA of the pentecostal church. The material has been well received wherever we have been able to present it.

But along the way many pointedly asked for help in planting urban churches and requested that I write a text for

church planting from a pentecostal perspective. I did contribute a new class in church planting and multiplication to the newly revised Plan Básico. However, conversations with leaders seemed to indicate that church planters come from churches where they have been disciplined by gifted pastors. The Holy Spirit has seen to it that every member of the body receives gifts with which to minister within the congregation and outside of it to the world. Many of these are under utilized in our current congregational structures.

THIS NEW SOCIAL MILIEU PROVIDES THE CHURCH WITH ITS GREATEST OPPORTUNITY SINCE THE FIRST CENTURY. THE OPENNESS OF THIS NEW GENERATION TO GENUINE SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER AND THEIR DEMAND FOR RELATIONSHIP FIT HAND IN GLOVE WITH WHAT THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH HAS TO OFFER.

Some are being called and equipped to plant a church but lack encouragement and the tools to launch out into ministry. I believe that both pastors and members will respond to the challenge of the need to multiply the number of churches in our cities when it is communicated to them. Globalization has increased secularization in Latino culture and convergence with world culture further demonstrates the arrival of younger generations that under the influence of postmodern thinking no longer share the mores and faith of their parents. However this new social milieu provides the Church with its greatest opportunity since the first century. The openness of this new generation to genuine spiritual encounter and their demand for relationship fit hand in glove with what the pentecostal church has to offer. I believe that the indications for the Church today are to simply multiply the number of locations in every city which people can encounter God and experience his grace and love in a community of caring believers.



Pastor Juan Trejo in the San Juan Lurigancho District of Lima

THE LIMA DREAM

General Superintendent, Rodrigo Espinoza (Above Right), leads the Peruvian Assemblies of God with more than 3,200 churches. His vision for the future invites every church to plant a new church by 2011. He also serves Central Assembly in Lima as Pastor. Under his leadership the congregation has grown from about 50 members to more than 300, while planting five new churches. He lives his vision. He is asking the Lord for 200 new assemblies to be launched in this metropolis of more than 9 million people. I have just returned from Lima, where we spent five days conversing about feasibility of the plan and doing research on the city and its people. Pray with us as we attempt to mobilize a network of trainers to provide necessary resources.

CAST YOUR BREAD
UPON THE WATER
AND AFTER MANY
DAYS ...



PRAYING FOR URBAN PASTORS IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

Moisés Chávez has pastored a large dynamic church, Trinity Assembly (*La Trinidad*) in the heart of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico for more than three decades. It is a strong church that has sent out its members as pastors of dozens of churches in Cd. Juárez and Chihuahua state.

During 2009, the drug wars left more than 2,000 murdered people in their wake, leaving this border city of one and a half million people trembling under the threat of this violence.

Please pray for the peace of Ciudad Juárez, Pray for Pastor Moisés and his congregation as they preach and live the gospel during these times of such extreme stress.

Moisés and members of his leadership team attended the Summit in Managua. He is one of my former students.



I heard about Angel Gahona before I met him. While participating in the Educational Cumbre in Managua, Nicaragua, the plenary session on transgenerational training, based on 2 Timothy 2:2, provided the subject for group interaction. My group consisted of four experienced ministers and three young pastoral couples. When the question was asked, "Who do you consider to be your 'Paul,' the one who disciplined you?" each of the six younger ministers responded with the same name—Angel Gahona. Now, let me provide you with a background. The story begins more than twenty-five years ago.

In 1984, Bill Brooks, Harold Calkins, and I collaborated to write a cell program for the local church in Latin America for the Christian Training Network (CTN). CTN then provided training seminars country by country. The general opinion of pastors was that the cell group idea was an import with little relevance to the needs of their churches. Consequently, there was little interest in the program and it was never widely circulated. In view of the current explosion of cell ministries in our Latin American churches, it seems that we had the right idea, just about ten years before its proper time.

The original manual included three years of weekly group Bible study lessons for use in the cell groups. These lessons had been written for CTN by a group of theology students at Southern California College (Vanguard University) under the supervision of Professor Byron Klaus who is now President of Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS).

Missionary Nancy Grisby, who attended the CTN seminar in Venezuela gave the lesson set to the pastor of a small struggling church in a town that had proven exceptionally difficult. Pastor Gahona and his wife saw the lessons as a valuable tool. They began immediately to hold Bible studies in the homes of Christian believers. In a year's time, they were conducting a total of thirty-one home groups per week and the church had grown from an attendance of forty to one hundred eighty.

Eleven years ago, pastor Gahona and his family immigrated to Nicaragua and began pastoring a church in Bluefield on the Atlantic Coast. Once again the CTN lessons were put to work. They have now been copied so many times they have become unusable. Every week the Gahonas held Bible Studies and taught others how to use the lessons. They saw this as the most authentic means of discipling new believers. Their congregation developed an attitude of winning the lost and discipling new converts, with the result that the church has now grown to more than 2,000 members and has established five daughter churches. The lessons have been shared with the pastors of other denominations, who have put this discipling method into practice with the same kind of results. During the conference, Gayle and Nancy Grisby discovered a new set of the lessons in a file cabinet at CTN and presented them to pastor Ángel and Miriam at this meeting. You see that set in her hands. So the discipling process goes on. Now you know the rest of the story.

Each time we send a communication out, it gives us an opportunity to say "thank you" to you for praying for us and for helping us to accomplish what the Lord has given us to do. Even during this down-turn in the U.S. economy, you have been so faithful to stand with us. We are grateful to you and to the Lord for your sacrifice. You are in our prayers frequently, trusting that the Lord will continue to meet all of your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We Love and appreciate you,
Jerry & Vicki



**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR NEW ADDRESS:
1304 East Republic Road, # 209, Springfield, MO 65804**