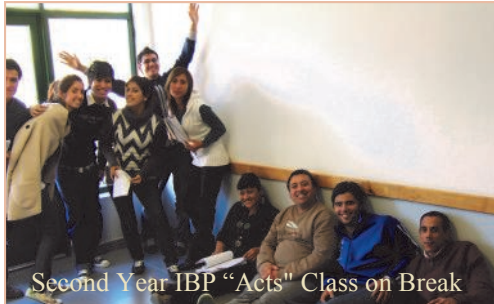




Downtown Buenos Aires, Argentina



Second Year IBP "Acts" Class on Break

The

BROWN'S REPORT

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church & city
research & resources for the urban church



THANK YOU FOR COVERING US WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT.

While at the Bible Institute in Patagonia, We sensed the Lord's presence and anointing in every class session, particularly during our ministry in the Spiritual Emphasis week. It is difficult to describe the life-changing impact of the Word on the students. Interaction with the faculty and staff refreshed us and confirmed that this semester was indeed orchestrated by God. Please pray for these precious students who now have to raise the funds for their next year of study under the extra obstacle of the damage done to the regional economy by the eruption of the Piyehue volcano that blanketed Patagonia and Southern Argentina with volcanic ash, destroying crops and damaging local economies.

Our next newsletter will be sent electronically by e-mail. If we have not received from you your e-mail address, would you be kind enough to reply by e-mail to Vicki at <vicki.brown@agmd.org>. However, if we do not receive that information, or if you prefer to receive the printed copy, we will be happy to send you copy by US Mail.

The Ecuador Tent project continues to gather steam. I have been notified that offerings should be sent to project #14538. Missionary, Tim Anderson has asked for help to cover the shipping cost of the tents. If you have already sent us an offering for this project that was not so designated please let me know so I can make the transfer from our work account.

Thank you all for your faithfulness during this difficult time. We pray for God's blessings on your finances, and for new sources of income. Please pray with us for the funds necessary to complete our involvement in the Ecuador and Lima projects.

We look forward to the arrival of our King, but let us trust him for the greatest harvest in the history of the Church while we await his coming!



Church without Walls



What do you do when your church outgrows the sanctuary?

That's the problem pastor Romulo Sanchez faced in Quito, Ecuador. We relaunched this church with a Quito Task Force tent campaign. The 1,000 seat sanctuary stretched only property available to us. Under the leadership of Romulo and Marcia the church has tripled and quadrupled in size. Using open-air meetings in multiple street locations brings in a continual harvest of new believers. This church is a miracle in progress.

While in Quito I headed for the Chiriyacu church for the Sunday morning service. When I arrived I was shocked—the sanctuary was empty; only a caretaker was present to direct stragglers to the location of Sunday Worship. In order for the congregation to meet together in one place. Romulo's latest innovation is renting the local soccer stadium once a month for weekend services. On this morning hundreds responded to the altar call to receive Christ.

A Serendipitous Week

Unexpected events and delays show how God does direct our paths though we are unaware



A postponed meeting, an unusual invitation, and an unexpected visit all contributed to some phenomenal results. I had notified my friend Julio of my visit to Quito. He met me at the airport and insisted that I stay in his home rather than a hotel. My meeting with Ecuador's presbytery was moved to a later date. But, in the meantime, I was asked to present "Why we should plant new churches" to national leaders from 21 Latin nations of another Pentecostal organization. End result: a decision to train 4,000 church planters this year. Next day, we met with the AG leaders in Riobamba. I observed as they committed \$150,000 to purchase tents for a national evangelism program.

Upon return to my host's home, I witnessed as he and his wife made their confession of faith in Jesus Christ.



Alejandro Mora & Fausto Trujillo



Advancing the Light

The Llaja family and "Avanzando la Luz"
Success Out of Misery...

I DISCOVERED THIS REMARKABLE FAMILY AND THE STORY OF THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DARKNESS OF POVERTY TO PLANT THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL IN A COMMUNITY WITHOUT HOPE

When I am asked, "Why keep on planting new churches?" I always have a ready set of pretty pat answers drawn from my years of experience and teaching on the subject. But today let me respond with a story that, from my perspective, illustrates the long-term value of planting a church in a city experiencing the chaos of rapid growth caused by rural to urban migration.

This story began in 1970 when the *Sendero Luminoso* ("Shining Path") ravaged Peru's interior. Literally hundreds of thousands of people fled the violence seeking refuge in the capital city, Lima. Refugees settled in "pueblos nuevos," invasions of inhospitable barren lands surrounding the city's established residential areas. Makeshift cardboard shacks were the starting points for displaced families as they attempted to start life anew under these precarious conditions.

The plight of the residents in one of these settlement areas, called Pamplona Alta, caught the attention of Pastor Lucas Muñoz. He sought out a member of his church and asked him to plant a church in that community. Jorge Llaja was a business owner, not a pastor, but he took the challenge seriously and moved his small business and his family to Pamplona Alta. Beginning in their humble living room, Jorge and his wife faced the difficulty of making a living and raising a family of six boys while planting a new congregation with no outside help. They persevered with unwavering faith. Today stepping into the vibrant worship of the 500 or so members provides evidence of their faithfulness, their dependence on prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Soon, the needs of the refugee's children for basic education provided the initiative for this fledgling congregation to begin classes. This humble beginning is now an LACC school that has become a focal point of civic pride and has given a basic education to hundreds of children.

My introduction to *Avanzando la Luz* Church began with an early morning phone call from Superintendent Rodrigo Espinoza—my schedule had changed—a Dr. Llaja, would meet me and take me to preach at the 40th anniversary of a church planted by his parents. The half-hour ride through the busy Lima traffic was filled with the story of the founding of the Pamplona Alta church. Stories of four decades of victories granted insight into the family and the congregation.

The six boys who were transplanted into the Pamplona invasion thrived in their new environment. All are still active in the church. Each of the brothers is a successful professional with an earned university degree. The group includes two lawyers, an accountant, two business administrators, and an orthodontist. One of the brothers is the legal representative for *Piedad* (Latin America Child Care) in Peru. His wife is a judge in juvenile court and an advocate for child welfare. Jaime, the youngest is the dentist and now has replaced his mother as the lead pastor.

In an unusual act of benevolence, the mayor of Lima donated the property on which the church and its school are now located—the only property ever given to an evangelical congregation in the 500 year history of the city. About 400 children receive a quality education at this school each year.

We plant new churches because it is one of our greatest tools for expanding the kingdom of God, bringing glory to the name of our savior. The testimony of God's presence in the life of the new church and its members injects health in to the community as they love their neighbors and minister to their needs with the love of Christ.

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