

August 2018

*“...Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow.... He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so it went well. Jeremiah 22: 3, 16*

### Latin America 2018

When we became team leaders for Latin America in late 2014, in addition to supporting CBM staff and programs, and our existing partners in Bolivia, Cuba and El Salvador, we were also asked to develop new opportunities for CBM and Canadian churches to partner with other denominations and organizations working in Central America and the Caribbean. What does that look like today?

### Where is God at work?

Clearly, God is at work in the Latin American church. There is significant growth in the church, and where poverty and violence are being addressed, the church is often at the forefront. Progressive Evangelicals in Latin America developed the theology and practice of Integral Mission long before this was addressed in the Northern Church.

There is an awakening to a fuller understanding of the Great Commission as presented in Matt 28:19-20. For many years the Latin Church has received missionaries and the gospel, and the evangelical church has grown greatly. They have however not been greatly inclined to “go” (perhaps with the exception of Brazil).

### What’s new in: El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and Guatemala?

We continue to support our El Salvador partner, Semillas de la Nueva Creación. Additionally, over the last few years, we have developed a relationship with ENLACE, an organization which has come to believe, like we do, that meaningful, sustainable community transformation happens when the church is at the centre of that movement. We have been privileged to collaborate with them, and have introduced several Canadian church groups to this work. We are pleased that ENLACE has started new work in Guatemala and we

expect to continue to develop a collaboration with ENLACE Guatemala.

We have just initiated a relationship and small project with the Federation of Baptist Churches of El Salvador (FEBES). We are optimistic that this relationship can grow.



El Salvador – Kathleen and Katrina, young leader in the church

### Dominican Republic

We are growing our relationship with the Baptist Churches of the Dominican Republic (IBAREDO). CBM is supporting the missional efforts of IBAREDO and we look forward to having one or more SENT teams participate in, support and learn from the church there in 2019.



DR – IBAREDO

### Guatemala

We are working closely with ENLACE Guatemala as they develop the network of churches desiring to impact their community, and growing in their understanding of how sustainable community transformation can happen. We hope to have Canadian church SENT team opportunities in Guatemala in late in 2019.

Our relationship with the Convention of Baptist Churches in Guatemala (CIBG) is encouraging. This is a relatively large denomination, active in all parts of the country, and in many communities already engaging and addressing needs in their context. We are optimistic that we can support one another, learn together and possibly host exploratory SENT teams in 2019.

### Guatemala Bound...

Over the last few years, we have traveled from Bolivia, several times to Central America and the Caribbean, which has given us the opportunity for us to see how God has been working in the local church and through our local partners. In order to support existing work and to develop new partnerships that allow for mutual learning and participation in what God is doing, **we will be relocating to Guatemala in January 2019**. We will continue in our role as LA team leaders, supporting CBM staff, programs and partnerships in Bolivia, Cuba and El Salvador, while also focusing on networking with churches and potential partners in other areas.



Good Friday - Antigua, Guatemala

### Home Assignment

Every 2 years we travel in Canada to churches and friends to update our supporters on what is happening in Latin America how, together, we are invested in this work. It is also an opportunity for us to be reminded of the context in which you live and work, and how we might participate in those challenges and opportunities. Our Sunday schedule is filled and we are continuing to work on the weekday calendar – with visits to 30+ churches, with friends and individual supporters. Our

first church visit is in Markham ON on Sept 30, followed by Ottawa (Oct 7), Blind River (Oct 14), Niagara Falls (Oct 21), moving east to Saint John (Oct 28), Moncton (Nov 4), Truro & Wittenberg (Nov 11), Halifax (Nov 18) Quebec City (Nov 25), Orillia & Stayner (Dec 2), Ottawa (Dec 9), Pembroke (Dec 16), Kitchener (Jan 6). And lots of other places in between ;-). We hope to see many of you during this time.

### Prayer Requests, Thankfulness and Gratitude

- Preparations for our home assignment in Canada and good connections as we travel, speak and reconnect with our supporters and friends from Sept. 30 – Jan. 8.
- Transition to Guatemala - for good connections with churches, leaders and cultural guides as we move into a new culture. And for a home in a safe location where we can make good friends and be engaged in our community.
- For our Bolivian partners and CBM staff as they work together to support the work of the local church.
- Thank you for praying for our families in Canada. Our children and grandchildren who miss regular physical support and connection with us. Our mothers, both now widows at 82 (Bruno's mom Lucile) and 95 (Kathleen's mom Barbara).

*We thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support that sustains and encourages us.*

***"Like cold water to a weary soul, is good news from a distant land. Prov 25:25***

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