

# COSTA RICA DM2 WORKSHOP



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USA



*Costa Rica Teaching Team*

An amazing response to the gospel of grace was the highlight of our August workshop in the mountains of Costa Rica. Following our teaching on the book of Romans, several people stood up and told the group that they had never understood salvation by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ before. Others said they had lived in fear of losing their salvation and were now eternally secure in Christ forever. The size of our group grew almost daily and by the end of the week we had a total of 23 new attendees. Most of these people heard the good news for the first time.

Another aspect of this trip which made it so special was the fact that we were joined by three DM2 teachers from Bolivia. These men, who primarily come from very impoverished areas of Bolivia, either paid their own airfare or were supported by others in their churches. How encouraging it was to fellowship with them and to sit under their teaching. DM2 has been carrying out a ministry with these men in their home country for several years. Now they are taking the initiative on their own to conduct workshops in other countries like Costa Rica and Mexico. This is the principle of 2 Timothy 2:2 in action. It was also a major help to have Larry Depue join us. Larry, who is a missionary in Bolivia and long-time friend of DM2, provided teaching and insight regarding our future ministry in Costa Rica. – **Rob Armstrong**

It never ceases to amaze me how God works through the lives of people who go out and teach His word to either the lost or the saved on this earth. I recently returned from a trip to Costa Rica, where a new commitment to teach God's word has been started. I was fortunate to be part of a group of excellent teachers and dear friends who taught the book of Romans. Scripture tells us God's word does not come back void (Is. 55:11), and that was certainly true on this trip. It was a joy to hear the students, during and after our DM2 seminar, voice their freedom from teachings which have kept them from living a life filled by God's grace (Gal. 5:1). Their new perspective can only be attributed to the work God does in a Christian's life as one begins to learn the truth in His word. The clarity of the scriptures enabled the students to understand how to live lives that please the Lord and how to further spread the gospel. The most exciting outcome was their desire to teach others these same truths. Their testimonies were filled with joy and peace that only the Spirit could express through them. They are my brothers and sisters. I ask all of you that you pray for them daily, that they may continue to look to the scriptures as they go forth and spread the good news of Jesus Christ and disciple believers. – **Joe Aguilar**



*Joe Aguilar with Pastor Enrique and his wife*



# SCOUTING TRIP TO PANAMA

My home church, New Braunfels Bible Church, supports a missionary team in Panama that reaches out to indigenous people in the western part of the country near Costa Rica. We have wanted to visit this missionary team for a long time. Recently, Bret led a scouting trip with Gary Armstrong, NBBC Associate Pastor, and me to meet with these missionaries. We also explored interest from the local church leaders concerning potential future DM2 conferences. Although we had several church contacts, we were only able to meet with two. However, these two meetings were sufficient. One of the pastors we met is well networked with other pastors and is very interested in facilitating a DM2 conference. We are thankful the Lord allowed us to meet and spend time with him. We had a great trip and saw much of the beautiful countryside of western Panama. Please join us in prayer regarding a possible return trip to conduct a workshop. – **Robert Ambbs**



*Scouting Team at Pastor Joel's church*

Panama is filled with beauty. It doesn't take long traveling through this country to discover its lush green landscapes settled beneath soaring majestic mountains. Animals run wild here and life as we know it in America seems so distant from this primitive paradise. That was my experience: a lot of contrasts. Amidst the natural beauty of Panama's countryside is another type of beauty, that of the body of Christ. As we met various Christians on our journey, one thing stood out: these believers love Jesus for who He is. Panama is basically a poor country. The people live in meager conditions, without most of the modern conveniences we enjoy in America. The churches we visited were made up of common people who have nearly nothing to offer God in a material sense, but what they did offer was their authentic worship unto Him. One pastor



*Church Meeting in Panama*

with whom we worshipped, Joel, served his church without pay and did not take an offering. He did what he did out of his love for the Lord and a desire to serve God's people. That truly spoke to my heart and humbled me. I don't think I realized how much value I placed on earthly possessions until I saw God's people without such things singing to the Lord and serving joyously. Panama taught me how God is working in the world and that the things I thought were gain to me I should count as loss for the sake of Christ. *"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord"* (Phil. 3:8). – **Gary Armstrong**

## PRAYER REQUEST:

Please be in prayer for Bret as he and a former missionary meet up with Venezuelan pastors in Colombia to help them with spiritual, as well as physical, needs. Also, in the next two months we have a "survey" trip planned for Argentina, and a workshop in Liberia and one in Zambia. Thank you for partnering with us.