



LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONS

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May 19, 2016

Dear Brethren,

In a brief study of the life of Christ, an amazing and disturbing trend arises. Take a look at these passages and look for the trend:

A Canaanite woman... came crying, "Have mercy on me... my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon..." His disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us..." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me..." Then Jesus answered her... "Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15:22-28).

And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar... began to cry out and say, "Jesus... have mercy on me!" And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more... have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped... and Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." ...And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way. (Mark 10:46-52).

A man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "...Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and the child was cured from that very hour. (Matthew 17:14-18).

When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." (Matthew 14:13-18).

In all of these instances, sincere people came seeking Jesus. They were desperate for help and knew He was the source of salvation. Sadly, in each situation, His disciples tried to send them away. Sometimes they had "good reasons." They didn't have the means to meet the needs of the people or they didn't know how to do what was needed. Each time, Jesus explained that the disciples should have done what they could and trust Him for the rest.

The men of Latin America who desire to preach the Gospel are in need of help. They are crying out for assistance. They want to be trained and educated to preach the Gospel in Latin America, but they do not possess the resources to accomplish this goal. They are relying solely on their faith in Jesus and their confidence in His disciples to help them overcome this obstacle. They are depending on us.

One of the students at the Bible School of the Americas, Luis Fernando Martinez Muñoz, is a married father of two from Neiva, Colombia. Luis, who was a co-pastor with the Assemblies of God, brought himself to the truth. Through diligent Bible study and use of the Internet, he found answers to his questions about which church patterns her beliefs, organization and worship after Scripture. The search led him to the Church of Christ. His home was six hours from the nearest church of Christ, but he and his family visited the city of Bogota one weekend to be baptized into Christ. He then moved his family to Bogota and spent the next six months being mentored in the faith by John Arrieta (former director and teacher of the Bible School of the Americas). John suggested to Luis that he attend the Bible School of the Americas in Panama.

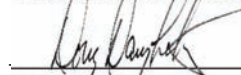
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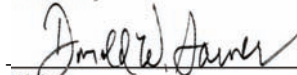
We frequently complain that so few in the United States are interested in the Gospel and yet there are men like this who display such a hunger and thirst for righteousness that they travel great distances, move hundreds of miles, and leave their home countries in order to become Christians and train to preach the Gospel.

Here is the problem. The monthly budget for the Bible School of the Americas is \$25,000 and the contributions are averaging only \$18,000 per month. If deficits like this are not closed there are no options but to turn away men like Luis. Luis, and men like him, are willing to make tremendous sacrifices to receive preacher training in order to spread God's Word. **We need to raise \$85,000 in order to operate the preacher training school at its current capacity.**

Statistically, 90% of the people who receive this letter will "send them away." Like the disciples of old, they may feel that they don't have the means to meet these needs, they don't know what to do, or they just don't want to be inconvenienced. Perhaps you are having some of these same thoughts. What will you do? Will you send them away? Or will you bring what you can to Jesus with the faith that He will multiply it?

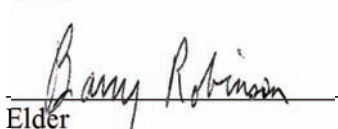
With FAITH in God and our faithful brethren,

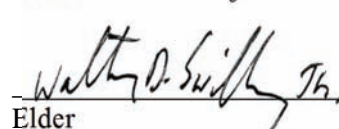

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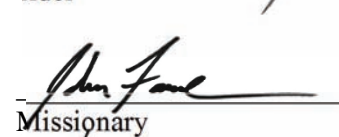

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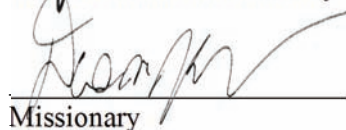

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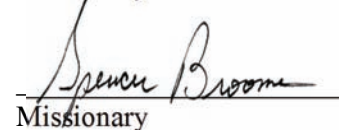

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Please make checks payable to Forrest Park Church of Christ and attach a note stating for the Bible School of the Americas. You may also donate online at LAM.ForrestPark.org (Understand there is a 3% processing fee)