

Trip Report
John and Sonja Decker
Ecuador, Columbia, and Guatemala
June 9-28, 2010

This was an amazing time of ministry training for our Foursquare churches in Central America. Following are some of the results:

DWJD Workshops/Seminars

We trained 530 Foursquare national leaders, boards, pastors, missionaries, leaders, emerging young leaders, and some church members in all six of the ministry skills outlined in *Doing What Jesus Did*.

We were first at the Central Church in Guayaquil, Ecuador, then we went to Bogota, Columbia where we trained at the Fatima church in the mornings and the Chico church in the evenings. It was a marvelous marathon! After Bogota, we went to the Antigua, Guatemala area where we trained 147 pastors and emerging leaders.

There was a contingent of 33 Foursquare pastors and missionaries from the missions school in Venezuela who attended the training in Bogota. They said they were going home and immediately applying the training. This group goes into Cuba to minister, and said they would use the training there. We are scheduled to be in Venezuela and Argentina in November 2010 to present the same type of training as we did on this trip.

The Chico church in Bogota had a live stream of our training on their web site, and we spoke later with pastors who had assembled their leaders at their church and did the training off of the web site. They were thrilled because during the Healing the Sick practicum, people were healed. This was exciting to us, because it verified that we can do the training by long-distance learning venues. Hallelujah!

Teacher Intensive

We presented a Teacher Intensive in Bogota with 150 pastors, teachers, and missionaries in attendance. These are the leaders who were very interested in launching Ministry Training Institutes using *The Ambassador Series* curriculum.

Speaking in churches

We ministered to hundreds of people in six churches. Our last night we spoke at the largest Foursquare church in Guatemala located in Santa Catarina Barahona, and over 65 people responded to the invitation for the Holy Spirit baptism. It was amazing. The Senior Pastor Ismale Morales Guaran said the church there had been birthed with the type of training we do, and it had planted 22 churches during the first years. They will be celebrating their 47 years as a church very soon. He said he wanted to see this type of training once again in the church there. There was talk of our returning next year to present a Teacher Intensive so the Guatemalan churches can use the curriculum.

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Ministry Results:

Holy Spirit baptisms: As nearly as we can tell, well over 300 Christians responded to the invitation to be Holy Spirit baptized.

Salvations: We were ministering mostly to Christians, but when we ministered in the churches, 35 accepted Christ as their Savior.

Healings: We literally lost track of the number of healings as the people prayed for one another in the practicum sessions. We think around 235 were healed. At the Chico church in Bogota, three medical doctors were healed and testified, along with many others.

Final Comments: None of this would have happened without the vision and strategic planning by the area missionary Paul Otremba. After he attended the FMI Missionary Training in Orlando and in L.A., he told us this hands-on training was exactly what Central and South America needed, and he set about to make it happen. He translated for us the entire time and he and Ulrike hosted us in their condo in Bogota. Now he is busily planning for our November training in Venezuela and Argentina and the schedule for 2011. His desire is to get the training in all of Foursquare for Central and South America.

We think the effectiveness of strategically planning the training like Paul is doing, reflects the value of regional leaders that can coordinate and use resources to the maximum.

As a side note, Daniel Brown was speaking at a pastors conference the week after we finished in Bogota. We had lunch with him, and he said the pastors told him that he picked up right where we left off. That led to a discussion about having a more coordinated schedule of ministries in foreign countries (especially now that the baby boomers are retiring and itinerating). That is a great concept to explore at another date.

Needless to say, we are humbled and thrilled. This is an amazing time of life for us. May the Lord be glorified in all of this!