



April 2017

Reaching Across Ministries

Workshop Activity Report

There are at least 500 churches along the border with less than 100 members and in need of discipleship training material. Two new associations totaling 50 pastors in Laredo & McAllen, Texas are interested in workshops, and workshops with them will take place within the next 45 days.

Website Modifications

RAM is currently making changes to its website and for this reason you may encounter some "glitches", but rest assured we are working on resolving them as soon as possible. The link is still the same:
ramministry.com

Progress continues for the church plant in the Panama / Colombian jungle, but not without challenges.

The project is progressing well and RAM has begun to contribute financially with the help of our ministry partners. Although RAM does not plant churches, it is a joy to assist the missionaries since they have been the recipients, in the past, of discipleship training offered by RAM in Panama.

News has been received that the first family in the village that became believers and shared about their conversion locally were expelled from the village by the leaders who saw the testimonies in conflict to their dark beliefs.

On the good side,

the indigenous missionaries that have visited the village were surprised at the reception by some who said "you are Indians like us, but have changed in good ways". As always, it is through loving relationships that others will see something good, and in due time they will become more curious about it. Expectations are still high and the missionaries are remaining faithful to the project.



Children watching the arrival of the missionaries

New service offered by RAM

There has been a growing pattern among many churches of desiring to conduct short term mission projects "closer to home".

As a result, this has opened the door for RAM to provide them with information regarding opportunities for servicing the churches of the pastors attending the discipleship workshops along the border.

The information

package offered by RAM includes churches to serve, places to stay, and contacts that will provide meals and assist the team locally with the activities. The sending churches will recruit their teams, provide transportation and assign a mission leader to lead their teams.

This is an exciting opportunity since many of the churches represented in the RAM workshops are in need of help, and this outreach from other churches would be a most welcome helping hand.



**Reaching Across
Ministries**

PO Box 17661
San Antonio, TX 78217

Rick Lay
210-862-0184
ricklayjr@gmail.com

Donations online
(tax exempt)
at ramministry.com

**Progress report from a pastor
attending RAM workshops**

What a joy it is to report on this church in Acuna, Mexico pastored by Carmelo and his wife Julieta. Read through the progression of their ministry and you will be amazed!



2010 - Started a home Bible study.

2014 - Began payments on abandoned building without a roof

2016 - Made final payments, members built the roof and moved in

2017 - Currently gathering 4 times per week (40 adults + children)

Would you like to gather a few friends to go help this church? RAM offers a 1 day research trip to investigate the project; just contact us.



Reflections

As I was sending a report to the CPA firm handling our finances, I reported that our ministry income for 2016 had ended up over 40% less than the year before. No specific reasons came to my mind except the thought that ministries are typically supported for a season, and perhaps 2016 was the end of that season for many donors.

My first “flesh” reaction was to ask God why the reduction, but then I heard His inner voice saying, did I promise you a certain budget when I called you and Kathryn to do what you are doing? Do I ask, in my Word, to go and make disciples only if there is adequate money available?

Perhaps you will agree with me, that much of our difficulty in serving the Lord stems from our unwillingness to receive the call from God with total surrender, and from there on adjust our to-

tal “called” life accordingly. Some of you reading this may have also experienced “diminishing” seasons. Perhaps a decline in health, in social relationships, in unreached dreams after hard work, or in not receiving answers to prayer after doing your best. Yes, in many ways we could all make an audit and see that in this life, not everything desired is attainable even when honestly seeking to serve the Lord.

So, do I really know why our ministry budget went down? Actually, the real answer is that I don’t. It is a mystery, and so it is what will happen this year and the next one. The best way to deal with mysteries is simply to raise our eyes to God and say “You know Lord, and that satisfies my soul”.

Rick