

THE RAM LETTER

Reaching Across Ministries / February 2017



Bible History Timeline

Beginning in 2017 a study entitled *“The Bible History Timeline”* has been introduced for direct presentations by RAM to the congregations. It has the purpose of helping the disciple understand from a panoramic point of view when the pivotal events occur in the Bible through history.

Although the timeline does reveal persecution to Christians in various forms and seasons, God does have a blessed ending for those who faithfully follow him till the end; therefore the study is actually very motivational.

The picture above shows border pastors that have assisted the ministry in many ways by requesting relevant topics needed for “making disciples” and on the right is a presentation of the Bible timeline to a congregation in Laredo, Texas.



Deportations within congregations along the border ?

The “National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference” has reported that many Hispanic churches may be affected by possible changes in deportation policies. This is not an area of expertise for RAM; nevertheless, the ministry will provide a forum through the workshops for the pastors



to come together, exchange ideas, and pray. In many cases the churches will be providing various services to assist the affected families, a service that is considerably new and challenging for the pastors.

New workshops in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico

The border Baptist association of churches has requested workshops for 40 churches in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The coordinator will provide transportation across the border for the single day workshop and meetings will be at a local church.

RAM has been very active in Laredo, Texas so this will further the relationship with the association which provides assistance to churches on both sides of the border. The first workshop will probably be in April.

Church Plant Update

Last November we shared about a new church plant within the Panamanian / Colombian jungle. The latest report is that a second visit has been made to the village and four Wounaan Indian missionaries are currently in training in Panama. This picture shows the curious villagers as the missionaries arrive for a visit.

RAM has not been able to contribute financially for the logistical expenses of this project due to a shortage of funds but will provide discipleship training material once the missionaries move into the village. This will help, but there is also a need for oral teaching as a large portion of the villagers do not read or write Spanish and only speak their own dialect.

As challenging as all this may sound, it is actually advancing well and the challenges are quite normal for the missionaries involved. Please keep this church plant in your prayers and if the Lord leads you to take a more aggressive part in this project, please let us know.



Reflection It is a fact that “being” spiritually fruitful is always attractive but not so the “becoming” process. Hosea 10:12 says “. . . **plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord that he may come and shower righteousness upon you**”.

This verse takes me back to a farmer plowing the ground in order to produce the “fruit”. Can you imagine what the ground would say if it could speak? **Hey, leave me alone. Do not disrupt me!** Oh, but here is the sad part. Such ground would never yield fruit and the farmer would lose his desire to return to it!

In a way, this is why “becoming” spiritually fruitful is often unattractive. We do not want the Lord to plow into our tranquil Christian life styles. Am I guilty of this? Yes indeed, but I share this because I do not think I am alone.

Often those mysterious difficulties we en-

countered represent the plowing of the Lord in our souls as He seeks to produce “fruit” through us. What a loss it is when we oppose it. This may explain why the great church planters in history suffered greatly while producing much fruit. Perhaps it was because they valued “becoming” more than “being”. The plowed life was normal for them.

Has modern Christianity in the 21st century changed? Is the modern church attractiveness based on it being a sea of tranquility for the saints? I am wondering if it is this lack of submitting to the plowing that keeps the revival from surfacing. If this is the case, let us allow the Lord to plow the hard ground of our hearts that he may come and shower righteousness on us.

Rick

