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Evangelize to make disciples. Disciple to make evangelists. Rest in the Millennium!

Dear friends and family,

Thank you all for your continued prayer, friendship, and support. God is doing some wonderful things here in the ministry. I would like to share everything with you, but space will not permit. Here are a few of the more salient things going on:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

God is bearing some visible fruit here in the area of leadership development. As many of you know, I have been working closely with four men (Carlos, Simón, Alex, and Ronald) to help them grow into the role of elders, and hopefully in the future form a pastoral team here at Eastside Church. Two of the men are deacons and the other two are qualified to be such but need to exhibit a bit more "visible" maturity in order to gain more confidence with the congregation.

They all, however, have begun to take some significant steps in showing leadership ability in the church. One key area in which they have done so lately is the administration of the church. They will be taking over the daily administering of the church and all that that entails: the legal functions, finances, etc. This is a huge step, especially when one considers that they initiated it. They are beginning to think like a team of leaders and as they administer the church they will be just that much more "visible" as leaders before the congregation. I cannot tell you how content I am with all of this. It is a big step and I give all credit to the Lord who is forming the right character in the right men.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

This is another area of the ministry where God is bearing visible fruit in many ways. First and foremost is Simón, one of the four leaders I mentioned above. Simón is heading up all of our discipleship ministries now and continues to impress me with his heart for people and the Bible. He is a gifted, motivated, and very capable young man. Since January of this year he has successfully organized, administered, and "pastored" every aspect of discipleship at Eastside Church (he has even taken the initiative to visit other ministries and expose them to biblical discipleship).

Simón is working closely with another young man, Jorge, that could soon be an "up-and-coming" leader. Jorge is leading and teaching a small discipleship group of about ten people, and he is doing a fantastic job! He is a gifted teacher and is open to the Lord's leading in his life in other areas of "pastoral" ministry. Pray for Jorge, that the Lord would do a wonderful work of grace in his life, maturing him into the leader He wants him to be.

THE WEB SITE

I have on a couple occasions shared a little with you about the far-reaching impact the Lord has given us through our simple web site. Well, it seems we have another young man, Nicolás, that God has provided to take over this aspect of the ministry here (I have been maintaining the web site up until now). Nicolás is sharp when it comes to web design and he is a growing man of God. He has put together an entirely new site that will be more interactive with the people we come in contact with through the Internet. It all goes on-line this week! This is a key area for our ministry and God has used it to bear much fruit in the teaching and preaching of His Word. Now it looks like He is going to use it to develop a young leader, Nicolás.

2TIMOTHY 2.2

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

It is very evident that God is giving us the privilege of seeing some "replacements" being raised up in our ministry. Just as Paul instructed Timothy to pass on what he had received from the Apostle, this has always been our desire: to pass on the ministry to men and women capable of leading it either with us or in our place.

So, what does all this mean for us? Well, for the time being, nothing (outside of being pretty happy and content with the work the Lord is doing). There is still much more work to do and much more growth needed in the leadership here. But, it is happening and that is great to see! Soon (in a year or two?) I believe I will be able to move out of my capacity as "founding pastor" and, Lord willing, continue as a "teaching pastor" working with a pastoral team of other men. This would be very healthy for the church and allow me to dedicate more time to several ministry needs that seem to become more and more pressing each day.

One of the greatest needs throughout all of Latin America is theological training (on all levels: from the street to the congregation to the pastor's study). And that is where my passion lies. I would love to be able to come alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ and, through teaching and training, help them grow in biblical, Christ-centered ministry so that we can all be more effective in fulfilling the Great Commission to "evangelize to make disciples and disciple to make evangelists." Please continue to pray for us as we continue to labor for our Lord here and seek His direction for the near future!

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Check out our web site for pictures, videos, and news about what's going on: www.greg-and-sue.com