

Cristóbal Yáñez, Missionary to Panama.

Santiago de Veraguas, Republic of Panamá, November 30, 2017



Beloved brethren and churches of the Lord, whom I love in truth,:

2 Corinthians 12:10, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

1 Corinthians 16:9, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

There is great joy in witnessing for Christ to others. I am greatly encouraged by the idea of taking a person from his lost state to that of being a disciple, a follower of Jesus, now dead to the old life and alive to God, someone who can grow spiritually, and can reach others and train them to share the Good News, someone with a desire to see their nation full of true churches.

In Panama the theme of sex education and gender equality is causing a controversy in the public discourse. A great part of the population supports schoolbooks that defend family, moral, and civic values. In 2018 we have the opportunity to put thousands of copies of the series "Learn with Jesus" in the hands of students. The lessons in these books come from the best "values" book ever written, the Bible.



By faith we have spoken with the printers, and they have given us the date of December 15 as the final day to order the printing of our books for the 2018 school year, which begins in March of 2018.

Part of our "Learn with Jesus" Project is to also put a copy of the Holy Scriptures, in the best translation we have here, in the hands of the teachers, or at least in every school. This month, for the glory of God, we have bought 350 Bibles to donate to schools and in the areas of extreme poverty in our country. We are grateful for the generous donations of brethren who participated in this spiritual sowing. Month by month we buy and distribute Bibles, in the measure that we receive offerings designated to that end.

October 23-25 I had the opportunity to go to Eastern Panama province and part of Darién province. We visited 16 schools and gave out 1900 Bible history books and 60 Bibles.

The month of November has been interesting in our ministry. While we were preparing for the annual conference in the church in Colón, some thieves broke into the church building and stole some of the equipment prepared for this event. But God, who is good and merciful, allowed the event to proceed successfully. May His Name be glorified in the midst of



We just finished our second activity on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Traveling in two cars, taking a group of brethren to participate in a study over "Growth in the Church" in Cañazas, Veraguas, our pickup was hit head on by a car that tried to pass some buses. God preserved the life of all involved, though some were injured and are recuperating. Our 4 by 4 pickup was quite damaged, and it will probably take a few months to get it fixed. This is one of our most useful tools in reaching communities in the mountains and other remote areas. Please pray that the repair would proceed as quickly as possible, and that the Lord would provide for this need. The fault lay with the other vehicle, and according to the laws of our country we must go to court on December 28 to settle the case. We thank you for your prayers for this.

The good in all this is that, in spite of the accident, we were able to accomplish the training in the Bethel Independent Baptist Church of Cañazas with a good attendance, while other brethren saw to the details related to the accident.

I am aware that, in the midst of open doors to share the Gospel and train believers so that they will be able to train others, we have an adversary who does not sleep and seeks to harm the work of God. Personally, I shed my tears before the Lord, submit to His will, and place all my trust in Him.

The work in Eastern Panama province and Darién is beginning to grow, for which we thank the Lord.

I am glad that in a few days my beloved wife and I will make our next visit to this region.

Please pray for the mission in Guacuco and for Bro. Blas Bolívar. He continues to be faithful in discipleship. Also please pray for Andrés Falconett, that the Lord would give him the spiritual strength to resist the darts of the enemy. These are key men for this region. In this coming trip I intend to spend time with them.

Similarly, I will be traveling in December to the region of San Lucas with my whole family to spend some days of study with the brethren there, if the Lord so allows.

Thank you for reading this letter and for praying for our afflictions and needs of the moment. I am asking God to help me maintain my ability to encourage my brethren in the faith, and I am asking Him to provide the tools we need in a timely manner so that we can continue the work of filling our nation and beyond with the biblical message and that disciples can be multiplied as well as new churches.

The peace of God be with all you beloved brethren and churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom I love in truth.



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