

ROD & SHERRY BOYD PANAMA

Raising up Christian Leaders in Latin America

PANORAMA

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BACK TO THE SUMMIT

We just returned back from Guatemala City, Guatemala. After a two-year delay, we were finally able to conduct the Educational Leaders Summit April 4-7 that was originally scheduled for April 2020. This is the first event that we've been able to conduct since the Covid pandemic.

There were 450 happy onsite participants from 14 countries, about half from Guatemala. Covid protocols required masks and social distancing that spread the participants out in the large auditorium. There were also more than 300 who participated virtually. We're grateful for the leadership of Miguel and Mari Morales, who now oversee the Panama Resource & Advisory Center that plans and conducts the summits. During these last two years, Miguel has aptly directed center activities and transitioned the summit to pivot from a strictly onsite event into a dual event, both onsite and online, likely the new reality going forward.

The Summit theme was *The DNA of Ministry*. Rod taught one of the morning general sessions on the DNA of our training program that focused on 2nd Timothy 2:15 as a model of what the goal should be for our program: *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."*

The Summit also represented closure for us. Even though we had resigned as leaders of the Panama Resource & Advisory Center and Christian Education Services, because of Covid we had not had the opportunity to say goodbye to so many that we have served down through the years. Miguel and Mari honored us in the evening service the last night of the Summit, presenting us with a framed Jewish Kittel, a white cotton robe worn by Jewish and family leaders.

We will continue to participate in future summits and other national and international events as we are able. Please pray with us as decisions are made for southern version of the Summit that is scheduled for August 2022 in Santiago Chile. In addition to strict Covid protocols that continue, the country is experiencing intense political demonstrations that has closed the hotel convention center that we were going to use.

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LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE & TRAINING CENTER UPDATE

We reported in our last Panorama that we would hold off completion of the second floor of the training addition, pending fundraising and review of the use of this space. We had hoped that we would resume Center operations in January. Our first scheduled activity was the month-long advanced training class in January. Unfortunately, because of the Covid Omicron surge in December and January, onsite classes were suspended and the program was offered on the virtual platform.

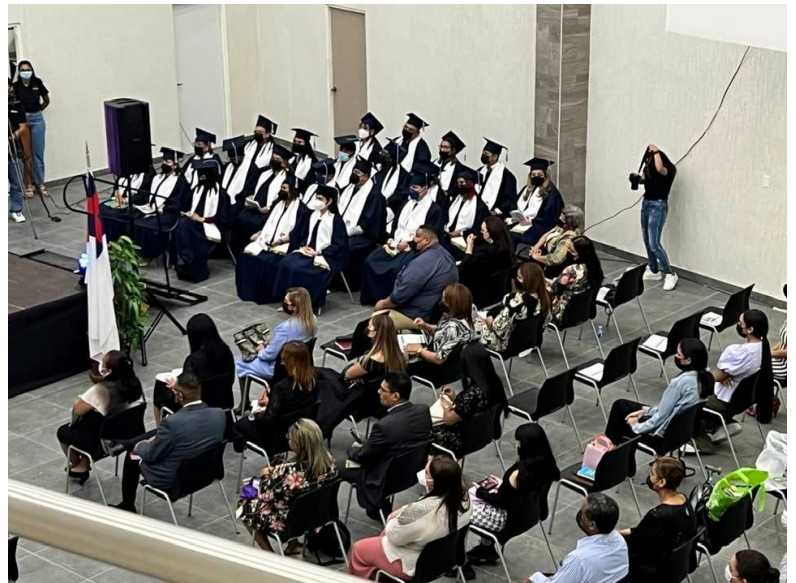
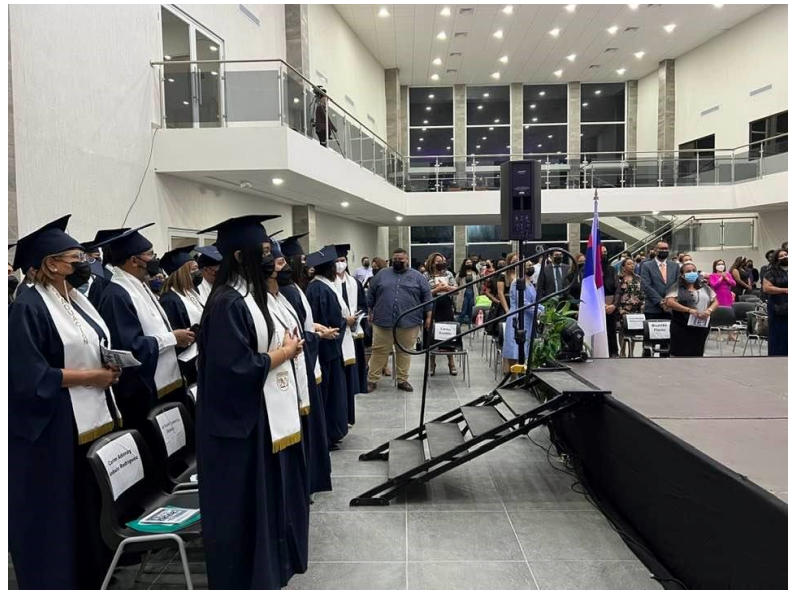
We did, however, host the graduation ceremony for those that had completed their BA in Pastoral Ministry. Our team worked hard to prepare the facilities, especially the atrium. Everything turned out beautiful and our graduates were honored.

We continue to work towards final occupancy permits for LARTC. Even though intermediary permits are granted at different stages of construction, the occupancy permit requires that we submit the final complete building plans with a final inspection. We're working to resolve a couple of issues.

We will be adding another missionary couple to the LARTC team! And we have some other exciting plans for Center development that we'll share with you in the months ahead. Because of Covid and some assignment changes in our missionary team, we will return to a more active role in Center development and operations during 2022.

THANK YOU for standing with us in prayer and financial support down through the years. This is volume 30, number 1 of Panorama. We are in our 30th year as missionaries to Panama. God has been faithful and you have been faithful.

Rod and Sherry



Prayer Needs & Praise Reports

- After a two-year delay, praise God for the 450 onsite participants at the 2022 Educational Leaders Summit in Guatemala!
- Please pray for the planned Educational Leaders Summit planned for August 2022, especially for the political unrest and venue problems.
- Please pray for the final occupancy permit for LARTC and for the reopening of activities and events at the Center.
- Please pray for the Good Shepherd Schools, kids and teachers. Classes resumed in March.