

Counting Our Blessings!

We are old enough to remember singing the song Count Your Blessings from the hymnal...

*Count your blessings name them one by one
Count your blessings see what God has done
Count your blessings, name them one by one
Count your many blessings see what God has done.*

We are counting our blessings this holiday season! We missed having a traditional turkey meal at Thanksgiving. We were attending the annual General Council meeting of the Mexican Assemblies of God in Mazatlan. On Thanksgiving Day we were privileged to present information about the 2013 Educators Summit to the 4,000 pastors and delegates in attendance, followed by a seafood lunch with the National Superintendent and Christian Education Director. We're hoping for a more traditional Christmas dinner!

We are so blessed to know Christ! He has blessed us in so many ways. We enjoy good health that allows us to fulfill a busy ministry schedule. We live under God's faithful provision and protection and do not take this for granted. Our kids love and serve God and have given us three beautiful grandchildren. We just received word that our youngest daughter Jennifer and her husband Geoff will be giving us a fourth in June!

After knowing Christ, there is no greater privilege than making Him known! We see the 16 years of pastoral ministry and now 20 years of missionary service as both an incredible journey and an amazing adventure! What some may consider a sacrifice, we see as an honor. God has given us the dream job of raising up Christian leaders in Panama and throughout Spanish-speaking Latin America.

And your partnership is a blessing! We say thank you to dozens of churches and families who bless us with faithful prayer and financial support. You are helping us live our dream. We pray God's blessings on your life and family and every endeavor in this New Year! We hope you'll join us count our blessings!

The remainder of this Christmas edition of our Panorama is a reflection of how God has honored and blessed our ministry.

Blessings to you!

Rod and Sherry

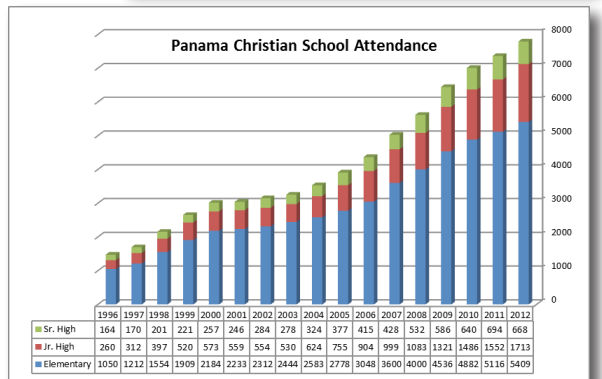


PANORAMA

ROD & SHERRY BOYD
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Latin America ChildCare and schools. We spoke with a pastor a couple of days ago about his desire to open a school in the town of Pacora, located about 20 miles outside of Panama City. The school needs just a little help to get started. We're so happy that Latin America ChildCare can help with sponsorships! And that's where so many of you come into the picture. You have faithfully sponsored these kids, giving so many a chance for a bright future that they may not have had otherwise. Thank you!

There are two or three other schools that will be opening their doors in 2013. When we arrived to Panama there were six schools with about 1,250 students attending. With the new schools opening next year, there will be close to 40 Good Shepherd Schools in Panama with well over 8,000 children and youth attending!



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Counting Our Blessings continued

A couple of days ago we had a Christmas party for the sponsored kids at the Las Mananitas Good Shepherd School. These Christmas gifts and celebrations are so meaningful to these kids! This simple act of giving by kind and caring sponsors, followed by another simple act of writing a short note of thanks captures the power and importance of the sponsor-child relationship. It is the epitome of the missionary heart and spirit—one person demonstrating kindness to a single child motivated by God's love. For God so loved... that He gave!



We were impressed once again by the quality of education that is offered at our schools. We always ask the 12th grade graduates what their plans are for the next year. Every single one of these students will be going on to university studies. You are making a difference! We heard the other day that one of our high school graduates had recently earned first place graduating from the School of Medicine at the University of Panama.



Steve and Marcy Hong (Sherry's sister and husband) visited us here in Panama about three weeks ago. They sponsor several children and provide special help for the Duima and Soloy schools located in the Guaymi Indian region in northwest Panama. They brought gifts for the graduates they sponsor and for all of the children at the Duima and Soloy schools. Even the Panamanians consider these two remotes schools as missionary projects!

We so admire the work of Walkiria who directs the Soloy school and oversees the director of the Duima school. The vast majority of the children come from families in extreme poverty. The breakfast and lunch that the kids receive at the schools may be the only meals they have. These

kids receive the gospel and a quality Christian education. Please join us in praying for a special need at the Soloy. The school needs to purchase a piece of property adjacent to the school to continue classroom construction. The Tennessee Pathfinders have almost single-handedly built the school. They have also raised funds for the purchase of property that is owned by an organization. Most of the board is willing to sell but it needs to be unanimous. Please pray that God will speak to each member of that board so that the purchase can be finalized. The Pathfinders are scheduled to return in January to build another classroom on the new property!



MINISTERIAL TRAINING

We conducted another PROCEPA teacher training seminar in Managua, Nicaragua a couple of weeks ago. The PROCEPA program offers practical workshops for the 5,000 professors teaching in 1,000 Bibles schools and training centers throughout Latin America. To date we have 2,400 teachers enrolled in the training program. Of the 118 that attended the seminar in Managua, 21 completed their basic level certification that consists of taking 10 two-hour workshops. We now have nearly 200 that have completed the basic level and will continue on in the 2013-2014 update cycle, required to maintain their certification.

PROCEPA training is given at national seminars and at the International Educators Summits. Attendance at the 2012 Summits – Costa Rica in April and Peru in September – increased from 633 in 2010 to 909 this year. By request of the national church in Mexico, we've added a third International Educators Summit, scheduled for Aug. 26-29, 2013 in Mexico. We are expecting 400 to attend. Planning is underway for this Summit and the two 2014 Summits that are scheduled for El Salvador in March and Uruguay in September.

PRAYER NEEDS & PRAISE REPORTS

- Praise the Lord for the record at the 2012 Educators Summits held in San Jose, Costa Rica in April and in Lima, Peru in September. Join us in praying for the planning of three Summits--Mexico, Aug. 2013; El Salvador, March 2014; and Uruguay, Sept. 2014.
- Please pray for Randy and Lynne Forsyth during their time in language school in Costa Rica. They will arrive to Panama in April 2013 to coordinate construction!
- We are grateful for the ongoing PROCEPA teacher training in several countries. We were privileged to participate in three different seminars in the last three months.
- Please pray with us for the finalization of land acquisition for the Latin America Resource and Advisory Center for Education.
- Praise the Lord for the Little Davey team that assembled and installed 75 computers for six schools in Panama.
- Please pray for the ongoing need for LACC sponsors and for school construction in Panama. Several pastors have talked to us about their projects. Pray especially for the Chepo school that construction will be completed in 2013.

Educator Summits

