

Training the Trainers

By Rod and Sherry Boyd

More than nineteen years ago, on a Sunday night at church, the Lord spoke to us through a missionary. He stated during his message, "If you don't have a good reason not to go, you need to go." This was the prophetic word that we needed to launch out into missions.

The process of "itineration" (visiting and sharing in churches to raise prayer and financial support) was a positive experience that affirmed the missionary call on our lives as a family. Formal and informal training and counsel during those months helped form what would become the slogan of our missionary career: **Raising up Christian leaders**. This vision has grown during our almost 19 years as missionaries. Today we find ourselves influencing educational and training ministries throughout Spanish-speaking Latin America.

As pastors in the States and now as missionaries in Latin America, our main ministry has been education and training. Today our focus is training ministers to pass on ministry to others. These were Paul's words to his young protégé Timothy: "**Pass on what you heard from me to reliable leaders who are competent to teach others**" (2 Tim. 2:2, The Message). We are teaching the teachers... *Training the Trainers*.

PROCEPA. The surveys that we have conducted at our Bible school conferences since 1996 have consistently identified teacher training as the area of greatest need. So in 2008 we introduced a new training program for Bible school teachers and staff called PROCEPA—an acronym in Spanish translated as Certification Program for Professors and Administrative Personnel. This certification is granted by the Latin America Theological Association, the Assemblies of God entity that oversees the accreditation of hundreds of Bible schools in the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

PROCEPA offers a basic certificate that requires participants to complete 10 two-hour workshops from a total of 15 that cover a broad range of foundational and practical topics. Most Bible school teachers are pastors who volunteer to teach one class each week to ministers in training.

In 2008, 484 teachers took at least one workshop. Now at the end of 2011 there are 1,660 from 19 different countries. This number continues to grow. We've conducted ten PROCEPA Seminars in seven different countries this year. We have our first group of 14 "graduates" who have completed the required 10 workshops. We have only just begun as there are more than 5,000 teachers in more than 500 Bible schools and extension sites.

Beyond the numbers. Even though these numbers speak volumes, we are most encouraged by the individual stories we receive. National Superintendents and Directors of Christian Education have thanked us for helping to "breathe new life" into teacher training. Even more meaningful to us are the stories of Thelma and Efrain.

Thelma was a student of mine in Bible school back in the late 90s. She was a senior citizen back then. God used her and her husband to start a new church in the outskirts of Panama City. Later they were appointed to serve in a national position. Her husband went to be with the Lord three years ago, but Thelma continues as a faithful pastor and is one of our best teachers in the Central Bible School in Panama City! She attended her first PROCEPA seminar and received her certificate with the first three gold seals that represent the three workshops she completed.

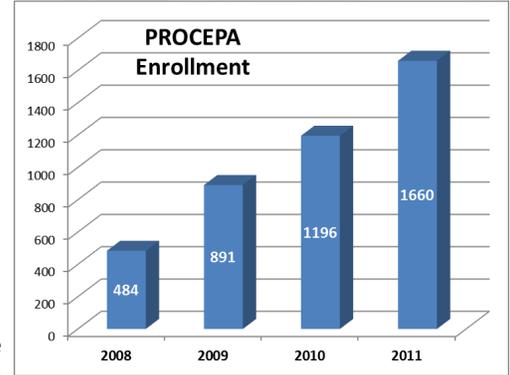
Efrain works in our office as coordinator of technical services. Efrain is a passionate student of the Word! He enrolled in Bible school three years ago and will be graduating soon. Because of his technical knowledge, he was asked to teach the computer class at the Central Bible School. Efrain attended his first PROCEPA seminar and received his

Continues...

LACC Christmas 2011: The Pictures Tell the Story *on reverse side*



176 attend six workshops at PROCEPA Seminar in El Salvador, June 3-4, 2011



Training the Trainers continued

certificate and gold seals. What a proud moment it was to give Efrain his certificate! Who knows how God will further use him as he prepares for ministry.

Raising up Christian Leaders... Training the Trainers. There is no greater satisfaction knowing that your efforts are multiplying ministry that will result in a "hundredfold harvest." Matthew 13:8 in The Message Bible pretty much sums it up: *"Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams."*

Thanks for praying and giving. Remember, you have a part in that harvest! Keep praying for the PROCEPA program. We expect that up to 200 more will complete their certification in 2012. We will be offering all 15 PROCEPA workshops in both of the Bible School Summits in 2012: April 16-19 in San Jose, Costa Rica and Sept. 10-13 in Lima, Peru.

LACC Christmas 2011— The Pictures Tell the Story

By Rod and Sherry Boyd

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. This Christmas we're going to let the pictures do most of the talking! However, we would like to mention a few words...

IMPACT... More than 1,000 children received a Christmas gift from their LACC sponsors this year during the 25 Christmas parties held in schools across Panama. That's fantastic!

SPECIAL... Not only describes the reaction of the children as they open the special gift, but also the love and attention given to purchasing the perfect gift just for them. It was wonderful to have Mom with us again this year who lovingly wrapped each gift, praying God's blessing on children as they opened their gifts. Many children just open one end to peek inside. They want to wait until Christmas to open and enjoy it. For some children, it's the only gift they will receive.

GRATITUDE... Every smile and hug ooze the gratitude these children feel in their hearts for their sponsors. They take a few minutes to write a thank you letter to their sponsors at the Christmas party.

HONOR... We feel so honored to be a channel of blessing—giving hugs on behalf of so many caring and generous sponsors. We are so honored to see the impact of this ministry, to see how special these gifts are to the children, to see, hear and read their gratitude.

THANKS... Just one more word to say to all who give and pray—not just to the children, but to us also. Thank you! You are making an incredible difference in the lives of thousands of children!



PRAYER NEEDS & PRAISE REPORTS

- Please pray for the upcoming planning meeting for the 2013 CIECAD Christian School Congress.
- Praise the Lord for the continuing growth of the PROCEPA Bible school teacher certification program. 1,660 teachers are now enrolled. Costa Rica missionary Miguel Morales has joined the Resource and Advisory Center staff as PROCEPA Coordinator.
- Please pray for planning underway for the two 2012 Bible School Summits that will be held April 16-19 in San Jose, Costa Rica and September 10-13 in Lima, Peru. We are anticipating 700 teachers and leaders.
- Praise the Lord for faithful sponsors who gave towards the 2011 Christmas gift distribution. More than 1,000 children received a gift from their LACC sponsors!
- Pray that God will send needed sponsors to help more than 300 children and youth still waiting for a sponsor in Panama.
- Pray for Randy and Lynne Forsyth as they complete the final 20% of their budget and prepare to travel to Costa Rica for language study.
- Pray for continued construction on the Chepo Good Shepherd School. So far we have two teams that will be helping in 2012.