



# Serving the UNDERSERVED

NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Volume 2, Number 2

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Mike and Mike S. with the pastors  
of the evangelical churches



Two mile path leading to the San Cristobel  
outreach church

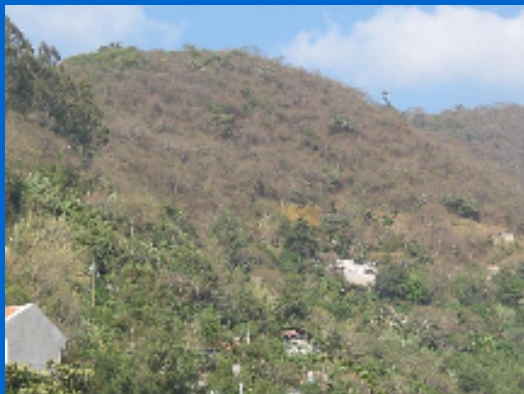
## From Mike -

"I also tell you this: If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them." Matthew 18:19-20 (NLT)

This promise is evident in our lives over and over, and yet we go on, day-by-day, without even acknowledging it. I want to be sure and acknowledge how this promise was exceedingly evident throughout our recent trip to San Pedro Las Huertas, Guatemala. We had requested that prayer cover us and that the Holy Spirit be with us, guiding and directing us, as we went to San Pedro to get an update on the outreach to the ghetto that began last October and to settle final details in preparation for the missions trip April 27 through May 2, 2010.

Proof of God's hand being with us began when we reached the Miami International Airport baggage check-in for departure to Guatemala. Mike Stancliff and I were checking four bags that included supplies for the on-going ghetto outreach. Pastor Israel and the pastors doing the outreach had requested three more tents, as many clothes as we could get to them, and as many MP3 players containing Dr. Charles Stanley's messages in Spanish as possible. We already knew that we had one bag that was four pounds over the 50 pound weight limit. Because of the way our bags had to be packed to carry the three tents, we could not move anything around to take care of those four extra pounds. So we decided to simply pray that God would give us favor with the skycap at the American Airlines check-in—**AND GOD ANSWERED OUR PRAYER!** The skycap asked us to move stuff around, but when we explained that we could not, he said, "Go ahead. I'll take care of it." With miracle one under our belts we were on our way.

Miracle two took place upon arrival at the Guatemala City airport. With only two people taking in four big suitcases, two roller-boards, and two briefcases, it was very likely that customs would stop and search our bags. We were not too concerned about the clothes, but we were uncertain about how Guatemalan customs would view our taking in three tents and 18 MP3 players. Guess what our plan was? You're right: pray for God's favor—**AND GOD ANSWERED OUR PRAYER!** Because Mike S. needed a wheelchair to go the long distance from the airplane, through immigration, through baggage claim, through customs, and then exit the airport, God sent His servant to pick him up. The attendant was a believer! Mike shared with her that we were in Guatemala on a "missions trip" and explained what we had been requested to bring with us. He and his attendant cleared



Mountainside location of San Cristobel outreach church



The Mayor of Antigua



Meeting with pastors of evangelical churches to plan outreaches to the ghetto area of San Pedro

immigration and met me at the baggage claim. The attendant asked us for our customs declaration cards and told us to follow her. She went to one of the agents reviewing the customs declaration cards and spoke for a moment—then the agent simply waived us through. **PRAISE GOD!** With these first two miracles being performed, we knew this would be a God-ordained trip. We knew that many were praying for our trip, and we felt and saw the promise that Jesus gave in Matthew 18:19-20. **THANK YOU** for praying and agreeing with us!

The miracles did not stop with the first day. On Thursday, we were scheduled to meet with the mayor of Antigua. This position would be similar to the person who would be responsible for the oversight of a whole county. Pastor Israel began telling him about the Plant Today ghetto outreaches and specifically about the outreach in the ghetto neighborhood of San Cristobel. The mayor got very excited because he was born and raised in San Cristobel. His father was Catholic and his mother evangelical. **He promised the land and material to build a church/community center in this neighborhood! MIRACLE THREE!** Please understand the magnitude of this miracle. This mayor is a person known for his very hardcore persona. He is known for not smiling, not caring for anything but himself. This man wilted upon hearing about how God is moving and offered a gift to the church and the community! [Just a “giving note”: We still need another miracle for this new church, in the form of tables and chairs for the children and chairs for the adults. We can purchase 10 tables and 25 chairs for the children, and 50 chairs for the adults for just under \$1000. If God speaks to you about this need, please specifically designate any check you would like to send and we will purchase as much as possible with any monies received. Thank you in advance for your generosity!]

On this trip we had two-and-one-half days of non-stop meetings. Although not all of the meetings are detailed here (you can see a detailed trip report on the website, [www.planttoday.org](http://www.planttoday.org)), God was with us and directed each meeting. As mentioned earlier, one of the important agenda items was to finalize details for the missions trip in April. This trip will be geared to reaching into the ghetto and the people there who are not yet reached by the ministry of Plant Today. We will be going into San Cristobel to provide eyeglasses and we will be attempting to attract the ghetto population to the community festival on May 1. If you feel inclined to join us on the trip, please let me know and I will work with you to get everything set for you to go. You can get more details about the missions trip on the website.

The pictures in this newsletter will give you some visual glimpses of the trip. As you view these, please join us in giving thanks for God’s favor.

Mike

## Other Updates

So much has happened since the last newsletter in early February. Although we wanted to concentrate on San Pedro in this newsletter, we must give you some other highlights.

I want to express my very great appreciation to the Plant Today pray team that undergirds this ministry! On February 7 many of its members joined in a time of 21 days of fasting and prayer. We saw many results of this dedicated time together. It has always been our firm belief that nothing in this ministry moves forward without earnest prayer and corresponding direction from God. If you would like to be part of this very important team, please let us know and we will include you when we send out prayer requests and updates.

God continues to expand the riding program. Even when we didn't think we could possibly take on more riders until we had one more horse and different facilities, we have added two more riders with the same horses and facilities. We now have 19 riders each week!

Pastor Dick Moseley, who volunteers two afternoons per week with the riding program, graciously opened his church for us to share the vision and ministry of Plant Today, both the riding program and Guatemala. Thank you Dick and congregation at Communities West Church in Loxahatchee!

Last week, through the efforts of a friend and partner of Plant Today, we were blessed with a \$500 contribution from the "Love Doctors Charities" here in South Florida, specifically to purchase another saddle and bridle for the riding program. God once again confirmed how very critical relationships are to this foundation!



On another note, Chief Carlos from the volunteer fire rescue department in San Pedro has related to us how valuable the equipment we gave last year has been. They use the halogens (extrication tools) frequently. Recently they experienced their most devastating car accident ever, a head-on collision with ten people involved and only four survivors. The halogens we donated were invaluable for extricating the people as quickly as possible. The chief has now come to us with a critical need for some other equipment: 25 pairs of boots, which cost about \$100 each; 25 pairs of gloves, which cost about \$30 each; and three small non-powered extrication tools, which cost about \$20 each. We would appreciate donations from any of you who would like to help meet this need. The plan is to take as much as possible into Guatemala when we go on the missions trip in late April.



Finally, this is Easter weekend, one of the most special times of the year for us as Christians. Everything we do at Plant Today stems from our love for Jesus Christ, because He first evidenced His love and grace to us through His death and resurrection. Thank you for partnering with us and being such a beautiful reflection of His love. Happy Easter!



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Pastor Israel, Omar (translator) and Mike walking to meet with the San Pedro city council



Pastor Israel, Cecilia, and their youngest son

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