



PRESENTING THE GOSPEL — MAKING DISCIPLES

March 1, 2017

10th Anniversary Celebration

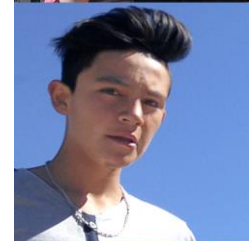
From February 13 to 20, I had the privilege of being in Mexico City for a missions conference/celebration of the 10th anniversary of FBH's ministry to Latin America. In February 2007 we began broadcasting on one radio station in Mexico City. Now, we have more than 100 stations broadcasting the program as well as having a website and mobile apps where all 474 programs produced thus far are available.

As on past visits, I was spiritually refreshed to be among the believers in the Cuajimalpa area of the city. The assembly where our producer, Nathan Díaz, fellowships, and serves as an elder, is strongly supportive of our ministry and I spent most of my time there. Although some are dealing with big challenges, their love for the Lord and desire to follow Him faithfully is heartening (and challenging).

At the mid-week prayer meeting, about 85 men, women, and children gathered for the 2-hour service. We prayed both altogether and in smaller groups, and while local needs were brought before the Lord, much prayer focused on missions and the church around the world. After I reported on the work of FBH International, I had the opportunity to answer questions—several of which had to do with how individuals could become more involved in missions.

During the week I spent there, I enjoyed hospitality in several contexts and after initial discussions about the weather, the Mexico City traffic, and how spicy I like my food, the topic of conversation typically turned to what the Lord was doing in their lives and the lives of people I knew. God's work on earth interested them greatly.

One of the refreshing aspects of my visit was the weekend-long missions conference. This included workshops offering accurate, up-to-date information about the Lord's work in specific regions. The leaders went to considerable lengths to bring the facts home to us. Some were in costume. Others found video clips. On one memorable occasion, prayer was interrupted by the sound of machine gun fire to simulate what Christians meeting for prayer in eastern Ukraine might experience!

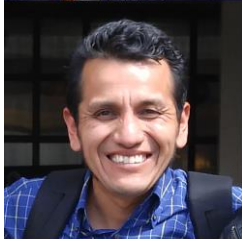




Saturday evening's presentation included a video that included several greetings from people who have collaborated with the ministry over the years and a personal visit from Rodolfo who worked alongside Nathan for the program's first 7 years. A Christian folkloric music group closed the night with an excellent concert that uplifted us all and left the entire audience without a doubt as to who Jesus is and what He did for us.



Recently, the assembly has had to go to two services to accommodate the people so I got to speak twice. I shared stories of what the Lord is doing in the Arab World and focused in particular on the idea of forgiveness. I learned after the services that this is an area with which several are struggling and I was able to pray privately with a couple of people and, I trust, encourage them.



One of the things that grabbed my attention was the number of songs that made reference to the cost of following Christ. Many of them would fit under the "consecration," "devotion," or "missions" headings in a topical index. They were not mere utterances of praise, but acknowledgments of the Lordship of Christ and the practical consequences of such acknowledgment in our lives. These constant reminders that God calls His people to abandon their comfort and follow Him has obviously penetrated the souls of these people.



Lastly, I would like to mention that these folks have seen their currency devalued by something like half in the last 10 years. Yet they send missionary offerings to specific workers in a variety of places. They are turning stereotypes upside down with their support of the Lord's work, including FBH International!



I trust this brief report encourages you to think about FBH and its international ministry, particularly to Spanish speakers. I confess that it was a challenge to dust off my Spanish language skills which have lain dormant for the last 24 years. Yet, the blessing of being able to chat with the people I met was worth the work (and the embarrassment). Rejoice with the FBH International board and staff that God is at work and join us in praying for the work in Mexico City.

Your fellow-servant,

President

P.S. If you would like to receive letters like this by email rather than through the post office, please contact Deborah by phone (1-800-567-1218) or email (deborah@fbhinternational.com) to let us know. Electronic distribution definitely saves money, and is faster, too.

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