



[Honduras Video 01-2006](#)

Regional Strategic Training Operation

Lepaterique, Honduras, January 23-31, 2006

Overview

This operation occurred in fulfillment of a vision given on May 24, 2001 to train 70 leaders in the mountainous region of Lepaterique, Honduras, Central America. According to *Operation World*, leadership training is the most vital need in the churches of Honduras. This is especially true among the growing number of independent Pentecostal and charismatic churches, which now constitute about one third of the nation's churches. Most of the pastors receive little to no training on even the basics of running a church. This is most evident in the churches located in the mountainous villages. In fact, Honduras is a nation that is at least 80% mountains with coastal plains on the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. At least 60% of the country's infrastructure was destroyed and 11,000 people were killed in 1998 by hurricane "Mitch." Born again Christians have grown in number from 32,000 in 1960 to over 1.25 million or around 20% of the population during a 40 year period. This figure is certainly much higher today. Despite the appearances of modern society in the nation's capital city of Tegucigalpa (city of St. Michael), the average Honduran remains very poor. Village life, in particular, is very challenging to say the least. There is a clear "Macedonian call" to reach the villages of Honduras for Christ, as has been the case in other developing nations of the world.

Bethesda Apostolic Ministry began in 1998 as Bethesda Christian Center. God used Pastor Omar Macias and his mother, Julia, to establish the church in Lepaterique and to reach the villages in the region. Roberto Ventura, Senior Pastor of the large Gerizim Christian Center in Tegucigalpa and a key apostolic leader of Honduras provided a healthy spiritual covering for the work until Bethesda Apostolic Ministry was released as an independent network in 2005. Luis Sorto, a renowned evangelist throughout Latin America, was also used mightily by God to further the development of the ministry, which now has planted nine churches in the surrounding villages. The immediate region of Lepaterique includes approximately 25 villages. Pastor Omar's mother, Julia, typically, leads a team of women on an apostolic mission to a village, often requiring hours of walking. Miracles occur and new believers begin meeting in a house resulting in the birth of a new church. The ministry also conducts a feeding program at least 3 days a week for the village children. Hundreds of children of the new generation are regularly fed in this way. We would soon discover that children's ministry was not only needed, but of vital importance to God's strategy for reaching the villages of Honduras for Christ.

Highlights

Jan 23-24: Luis Sorto met the team in Tegucigalpa and we proceeded by van into the mountains toward Lepaterique where Omar and his mother, Julia, were waiting for us. The next morning we proceeded to the village of Los Ingles (the English man) where the church was gathered together to greet us and hear God's word about the 12 disciples in Acts 19. We prayed for many to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the High Mill Children's Ministry Team of Mary, Deb & Julie followed with targeted teaching, prayer & gifts for the children. We also prayed for the healing of an epileptic boy before beginning a 2-hour walk through the clouds to the next village called, Acaguaque. This village was surrounded by coffee fields that we had to walk through. We could hear the people singing praises to God as we approached. Michael preached from the book of Revelation and

prayed for all to receive a new and fresh anointing of fire. Pastor Omar shared later that this was what the people were waiting to hear. The team effectively conducted children's ministry to at least 30 children at each village. On the strenuous walk back through the mountains, we stopped at a village pastor's home to pray for his mother who had a stroke and had fallen hitting her head. We felt healing power go forth as we prayed and we expect to hear a good report in the near future.

Jan 25: This was the 2nd day of village ministry. We traveled to the village of El Espino (the thorns) where the church was filled with women and children. After a brief message from Matthew 21, Mary and the children's ministry team proceeded with a very responsive audience. The ministry concluded with prayer for salvation and the Holy Spirit. We went on to the next site where about 35 people were gathered under a simple canopy of limbs and branches. This was the village of Llano Pando (twisted field). They had been a house church and only recently came to the land given to them. Michael preached a brief message entitled, "Little is big when God is in it." The Children's Ministry Team again followed and there were at least 9 salvations. The evening service at Bethesda began with a young person opening the service with a breakthrough prayer that ushered in victory. The praise team effectively led us into glorious praise with full congregational participation. Michael followed with a victorious message from Romans 16:20 and Luke 22:31-32 with some teaching on what Satan can and cannot do. He also proclaimed that Omar and his mother would be listed among the apostles of the 21st century. A teenage girl repented and was saved. There were also two rededications. The church building was filled with the praises of the Lord.

Jan 26: Although each morning began with team prayer, this day started in a very special way. Luis Sorto shared with the team his heart's commitment to children and youth of the next generation. This was followed by fervent prayer for Mary, Deb & Julie and the continued ministry to the village children. The anointing of the Holy Spirit was very evident and powerful. The team went to the village of El Guayabal. After a brief message regarding Jesus and the children from Matthew 19:13-15, Mary, Deb & Julie gave a dramatic presentation on the Fall of Adam & Eve, the Victory of Christ over the devil, the Holy Spirit as our Helper and hearing God's voice. At least 14 children prayed for salvation and 15 to receive the Holy Spirit. We proceeded to El Naranjo (the Orange) where around 30 were gathered in the small church building. As people were arriving, an 85 year old woman entered the church bringing flowers to the altar. She had walked a great distance and we prayed for her healing. This church had begun on a cluster of big rocks located just outside the current church window. It was a clear reminder of how the church is built upon the Rock, which is Christ, and that we are living stones being built into a spiritual house. Mary and the team again ministered to the children. Around 15 prayed for salvation and 17 for the Holy Spirit. This concluded the village part of the mission. The team had visited 6 villages and ministered to several hundred children.

Jan 26-28: The team returned to the village of Lepaterique where the training seminar for 70 spiritual leaders was scheduled to begin. Most of the men and women attending the training were under 30 years of age. The 1st session introduced the New Testament order for the church and how our concept of what the church is and is not affects us as leaders. It was determined that it would be good to follow each hour of teaching with a time for questions and answers. This proved to be a very effective tool for understanding and applying what God was revealing to us. The seminar continued on the following day with sessions on apostles and one on prophets including how they work together. There were many questions regarding prophetic ministry in the church, which confirmed again the continuous need for in depth teaching on this topic. A banner entitled, "The hand of God for the church," visually displayed the 5-fold ministry team as a unique gift of Christ for the church. Mary presented a session in the afternoon on Children's Ministry. She began by stressing our responsibilities to the children from Psalms 127 and Deuteronomy 6:4ff revealing how serious children's ministry is when considering the next generation (Exodus 12:6-7; Psalms 78:6-8). She shared how spiritual foundations are laid by age 9 and that 90% of born again Christians receive Christ by age 13. Mary concluded this session with practical steps on establishing and conducting a children's ministry in the church emphasizing prayer, vision, strategy & the careful selection of leaders and workers. This was a very important teaching and the questions continued for a long period of time. The evening session was also very strong resulting in a time of deep worship after the teaching on the apostolic movement. A number received spiritual impartation through the laying on of hands. The next morning concluded the seminar with a teaching on the importance and content of a sound teaching ministry in the church. Some 38 CD's with the first two volumes of "What Every Disciple Ought to Know" were distributed to those who could read English or had access to someone who did so they could begin utilizing this important resource for making disciples.

Jan 28: Mary, Deb & Julie had departed in the morning to New Generation Ministry in Zambrano where they were ministering to hundreds of children. This is the home base for the ministry of Luis and Mayra Sorto. Luis and Michael joined the team later after the training seminar in Lepaterique. Zambrano is a village of around 5,000 people. The team continued their ministry to the children of each age group throughout the day. Many more received prayer for salvation and the Holy Spirit.

Jan 29-31: It was 4:00 AM when a word was received from God. "There is a Holy Spirit fire upon the next generation." Then there was the revelation that most have yet to see it. Though pastors, ministries and churches are doing many good things in running local congregations of believers, they have yet to see this spiritual fire. I was left asking if this Holy Spirit fire with the fire anointing was only a God thing where He providentially selected where and when He would send it or would He release it to anyone who simply asked? Perhaps it involves some of both. The team attended services at Gerizim Christian Center in Tegucigalpa. Many danced (mostly men) unto the Lord during praise and worship. Michael briefly shared what God had revealed to him in the early morning hours. The word was well received. The next day the team traveled to Villa de Angeles (village of angels), a popular tourist place in the mountains. We met several mission teams coming and going at the airport. This

was visible evidence that God's hand is upon the nation of Honduras.

Lessons learned

- Leadership training of the next generation continues to be the top need of the world's churches.
- More attention needs to be given to fresh strategies for children's ministry as a top priority of reaching the world for Christ.
- The restoration of the Ephesians 4:11 biblical model of team ministry in the body of Christ is essential to the healthy and full release of spiritual gifts and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
- Reaching villages must continue to be the primary target of strategic operations.
- The principle of twelve as a leadership development model needs to be examined more closely in the Scriptures and more fully considered as an operational strategy.
- Leaders in general and young leaders in particular need to guard against spiritual pride in every place.

Conclusion

The team worked very effectively in ministry together. We visited seven villages including Zambrano, ministered to over 500 children in five days and experienced a significant training event with 70 leaders of the next generation. It is difficult to estimate the number of salvations and rededications to Christ; however, there were a goodly number. We would have liked to see a more prominent healing ministry, but our time was short and we firmly believe that those we prayed for will recover in accordance with God's word. We hope to conduct future operations to the most remote villages in the region. We were able to identify and grasp with our Honduran brothers and sisters the common need for God to send a fresh spiritual fire upon us all. The words printed on the wall of Gerizim Christian Center are also our prayer and conclusion:

Enciende El Fuego – "Light the Fire"

Porque Lo Mejoresta Por Venir – "Because the best is yet to come"

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