



LATAM INTENSIVE CONFERENCE



Brothers and sisters in Christ, many of you know that Pastor Chris, Kathy, and I were out of town (way out of town) a couple weeks ago to attend the LATAM Intensive Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was three and a half days of training in problem solving, relation building, and goal setting. Some of you have rightfully asked “why?” Well, that is a great question. The short answer is because Andres Garza asked us to. But, the rest of the story, as Paul Harvey used to say, provides the real reason.

Many of you know our relationship with Andres goes back 25 years, when Bethel was given an opportunity to come alongside a number of faithful men in Mexico, who had been given a vision to plant churches in northern Mexico. As relationships grew, and the Lord worked in our heart and theirs, some bold and uncertain steps of faith ensued on their part, as well as ours. Over the next few years, these faith leaders in northern Mexico came to Clover, were educated in the reformed doctrine here at RTS in Charlotte, and returned to Mexico. The first Church Planting Institute (CPI) in Monterrey, Mexico was established. Andres Garza was the first director of CPI in Monterrey. Working in conjunction with MTW, a model of training, assessing, encouraging, and mentoring church planters was developed and demonstrated to be successful in northern Mexico.

In 2014 Andres was called by Redeemer City to City (CTC) in NYC, with MTW’s blessing, to lead an effort to expand the CPI model into South America. So, in 2015, Andres became the CTC Latin American Director. That’s a bit of history some of you may not know, but is relevant to the why we went to Buenos Aires.

Over the past ten years, Andres has been building relationships with faith leaders in Mexico and South America. The CPI model of training, assessing, encouraging and mentoring leaders and church planters is spreading. Leaders have been trained to become trainers and assessors in HUB cities. HUB cities with their own national reformed leadership then reach out to train, assess, encourage, and mentor more church planters in other cities of their respective countries.

CTC LATAM was celebrating their tenth anniversary this fall. There were 115 pastors and church planters, 30 partners representing a number of supporting churches, 9 international trainers, and observers present. Chris had an opportunity to participate on a panel Q&A discussion during the partners breakout session. The questions he answered were basically directed at different aspects of the “Bethel” story. By the way, he did a great job! We also received many more questions besides those from other partners. Andres’ staff and some of the other national leaders we spoke to had heard about Bethel as well and had their own questions.

So, the real reason we were there was to tell the story about how a little church in Clover, SC dared to step way out of its comfort zone and was allowed to partner through faith with some strangers from another country, who had a vision to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ by planting more churches. Bethel has been blessed in the process by forming many brotherhood-type relationships with many other brothers and sisters in Christ and by getting a little glimpse of the church universally. All members of the body of Christ with various functions supporting one another in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Amen!

Calvin Reese

this week

Sunday’s sermon: *Living as the People of God - Part 2* 1 Peter 2:11-17

events

Joint Officers Meeting
11/9 at 2:00 pm

Bridal Shower
11/9 at 2:00 pm

Circle #2
11/9 at 3:30 pm

Middle Schol Girls DG
11/9 at 4:00 pm

Youth
11/9 at 5:00 pm

Kids’ Quest
11/9 at 5:00 pm

Play Practice
11/9 at 5:15 pm

Circle #3
11/10 at 7:00 pm

GriefShare
11/11 at 6:30 pm

Men’s Bible Study
11/12 at 6:00 am

GriefShare
11/12 at 1:00 pm

Colleen Riddle Circle
11/12 at 11:00 am

Mentors & Moms
11/13 at 9:30 am

“Surviving the Holidays”
11/13 at 6:30 pm

volunteer schedule

Infant Nursery
Kim Britt &
Mandy Wynkoop

Toddler Nursery
Kathy Donnelly
& Lee Coble

Worship Training
Danielle Austin &
Amanda Brummett