

Saturday, September 10, 2011

¡Saludos Hermanos y Amigos!

In a message solely devoted to information about the progress of Instituto Teológico Latinoamericano (ITL), we made the following statement, “In a near future report we will send a short biographical sketch of each of our new students.” We have a brother and good friend named Bob Turner, who after reading that line, probably thought that our “near future” is normally not so near. Some of you probably thought the same. However, in this case we have made it nearer than normal. ☺

As we stated in the ITL message, we have enrolled six full-time students who now form our BETA class. Lord willing, they will graduate and join the full-time force in the field in March of 2013. One might think that 2013 is a long way off. But, when we stop to think how quickly 2012 is approaching, we are forced to think how quickly their graduation will be upon us.

Let us take a few moments and present the new ITL full-time class participants. We will share with you briefly a couple of the items they stated on a form they filled out concerning their likes and goals. We will start with **Manuel David Avila Chuc** from Samayac, Guatemala. He is a single, 24-year old and comes from a Christian family. His mother is a faithful member of the church. David has several brothers, most of whom are members. David hopes that one day some of his brothers can come to study at ITL. On his likes and goals sheet he stated that he likes to play soccer and likes to plant corn and fruit. He also said, “I also like to eat.” And we will not argue with that statement. ☺ Two of his goals are to graduate from ITL and to have a good family.



Next, we have a couple, **Walter** and **Nohelis Dardon** and their two-year old daughter, **Keira**. The Dardon family were members at Linda Vista before coming to ITL. Several in Walter’s immediate family are also members at Linda Vista. Nohelis, on the other hand, is the only



Christian in her family. A little while back a very good friend of theirs was shot and killed not too far from the church building; he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. This event caused Walter to think of his relationship with the Lord. He said he did not want to leave earth like his friend left it. As a result, both Walter and Nohelis turned their lives over to the Lord. Walter is 28 years old and Nohelis is 26; Keira is two. They have been married for a little over two years. Walter likes to watch and play sports and read the Bible. Of his goals, he listed that he

wants to better develop himself as a Christian and he wants to become a preacher. Nohelis likes to spend time with her family and read the Bible. Of her goals, she stated that she wants to learn very well the word of God and bring others to the knowledge of it, also.

Next on our list is **Angel Gabriel Gonzales Morales**. Gabriel comes to us from the country of Panama. He and another student that we will mention in a moment made ITL truly an international institute. Gabriel is single, 25 years old and comes from a Christian family. Before coming to ITL he participated strongly in the work of the Lord where he worshipped. He states that he likes to travel and to play soccer every now and then. Of his goals, he stated that he wants to be a good minister or servant of God and to form a Christian home.



The other student from Panama is **Eliezer Nieves Perez Gonzales**, known on campus by his first name, Eliezer. He is single, 22 years old and also comes from a Christian home. Of the six students, Eliezer probably has the most experience in the work of the church. On his paper he stated that he likes to read the Bible, analyzing it point by point. He is also a barber and likes to cut hair. We may have lost a cook for the students when the first class left, but we gained a barber for the students in this group. ☺ Of his goals, Eliezer wants to complete his two years of study and work as a true evangelist.

The final student for the BETA class is **Arnoldo Alejandro Tot Pelaez**. He is listed last because his name falls last in the alphabetical listing of our students. It is not because he is the youngest or smallest of all the students. Nor is it because he has the least experience or because he has been a Christian the least amount of time even though all these characteristics are true of him. One instructor said that if he could just gain some weight while he is here that would be an accomplishment. ☺ Alejandro is single, 18 years old and comes from a Christian family that is fairly new to the Lord's church. He is from Coban. On his sheet he says he likes to visit different places and that he likes to help people in various ways. One of his short-term goals is to do well in his grades and graduate from ITL. One of his long term dreams is to have a good family and become a good minister in the Church.



Well, now you have the information that we said we would send. As you can see we have a very diverse student body with whom to work. We pray that God will give us the wisdom to work with the BETA class and help them become a valuable asset to His work here in Central America.

We are thankful for the various ways that many of you have helped with ITL since its conception. Some of you donated to help us purchase property; we hope to have the property very soon. And, of course, the next step will be to build a real ITL campus. We are confident that you all will be along our side to help us with this phase once we are ready. Some of you helped ITL to purchase a much needed form of transportation, the ITL 15 passenger van. The van has proven to be worth its weight in gold. Another way that some of you have helped is with our

uniforms. Just a few weeks ago **Buddy Baker** and the group from the **Sherrod Ave. church of Christ** were here. Before Buddy left he made a donation to help us purchase the uniforms. After he returned home he sent the remainder of the funds. We are grateful to him and to Sherrod Ave.

BETA Class (2011-2013)



BETA Class with ITL Jacket



The list could go on and on making note of how so many have helped ITL, but because of time and space we cannot mention everything. However, we do want to mention one final way that brethren throughout the US are helping. It is called the “Help Train Messengers” (HTM) Ministry. This ministry is close to one year old and is proving to be an effective way to make it possible for sponsors from abroad to help support students who are studying at ITL. In HTM sponsors are assigned a student. They sponsor the student at \$50 per month. This goes to help with the overall expenses (about \$300 per month) incurred by the student as he prepares himself at ITL. The sponsors can send their sponsorship in any form that works best for them (monthly, \$50 per student; annually, \$600 per student, or any other way that is convenient). Let us note here that the \$50 is the base sponsorship and more can be sent. ☺ The sponsor in return receives updates from us and from their students. They also have pertinent information about the student they sponsor and can maintain contact with them. If this is a way that you can serve, please let us know. We welcome you to become part of the HTM ministry. Your decision to help in this way will make a big difference in the future of the Lord’s work here in Guatemala.

Thank you again and again for being our partners in a work so vital to so many. Everyone can pray, so please, please pray!!! However, everyone cannot live in Guatemala, but some can. Everyone cannot travel to Guatemala, but some can. Everyone cannot financially support the work in Guatemala, but some can. These short statements are written to help us see that EVERYONE can do something. And, if everyone does something, many souls will be saved!

¡Dios los bendiga grandemente! (God bless you greatly!)

Con amor,

Hawatthia
Byron

“Teaching the CENTRAL MESSAGE in CENTRAL AMERICA!”

