

EVANGELISTIC MISSIONARY CRUSADES, INC.

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The President's Report for 2007

Forty-six years ago God spoke to my heart and we began the ministry of **Evangelistic Missionary Crusades**. Since then, we have had the privilege of ministering to thousands of precious souls throughout the world. Wherever He has led us, we have proclaimed the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**. As the message has gone forth, the Holy Spirit has touched the lives of all who would hear - transforming and filling them with His power and love. Where the kingdom of darkness had once reigned, there is now life and light.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. John 15:16 (KJV)

This has been a motivating scripture for me, the emphasis that has driven me, putting on my life the knowledge that the Lord has called, chosen and ordained. That's enough!

In Los Angeles – As the Lord has continued to grant us His strength, we have met each morning, Tuesday thru Saturday, with our friends and co-workers to worship and praise the Lord. Together, we have studied His Word, praised His name, and bowed before Him in prayer - believing that He would indeed meet all the needs and requests that we had received from around the world.

From there, we went our many ways – Endeavoring to do all that the Lord had placed before us. Much time was devoted to the needs of the *Finca*, preparation and study for our Sunday services, and the visitation of widows and those who were sick. Throughout the year we also had opportunities to share hospitality with missionaries on furlough, provide temporary shelter for the homeless, food for the hungry, scripture reading for the blind, and comfort for the troubled.

On Friday nights, we continued to meet here at the **International House of Prayer** for worship and Bible study with our associate **Orvil Harris**. Even after a long week, we looked forward to this time of verse-by-verse expository teaching and fellowship.

Our Sunday morning service continues to be the highpoint of the week as we gather together to worship and enjoy the presence of the Lord. He never ceases to amaze us, and His power and glory are overwhelming. Like King David, it is my desire to *dwell in the house of the LORD forever*. This year it has also been my honor and privilege to share the pulpit with **David Swearingin**. David is on our *Board of Directors*, and is a gifted teacher of God's Word. Together we gladly proclaim God's message to all who come. It is a time of **great blessing** that you do not want to miss. If at all possible, please **plan to be here with us**.

In Honduras – Under the watchful eyes of **Alonso and Michele Gomez**, the work at *La Finca de Los Niños* continues to flourish. **Michele**, an able administrator, did double duty as she handled her daily duties and the studies necessary to graduate from *University* with a law degree. She is presently pregnant, performing her *Practica (Internship)*, and working towards her licensing. Our congratulations to her!

With help from volunteer workers from Mexico, the U.S. and the U.K. we continued to touch the lives of the children that God had entrusted to us. **Ray and Christine Taylor** (from the U.K.) returned in November to help us for three months with Christmas festivities, teaching, training and maintenance. **María Elena Alonso G., Betty Santiago** and **Elda Martinez** (all from Mexico) completed their commitment to the *Finca* before leaving December 26th. All performed a myriad of duties (many of which revolved around prayer and teaching) and had a powerful effect upon the children.

In February and March we were blessed with work teams from the **Metzler Mennonite Church** of Ephrata, Pennsylvania, USA led by **Harlan and Janelle Horst**; and **The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury**, New Jersey, USA led by **Bob Harris**. Both teams worked hard to move the first unit of the children's housing project towards completion by the 38th Anniversary dedication date. Both teams were also multi-talented and completed this and many other maintenance projects while spending much time loving, teaching and caring for the children.

We were also blessed this year with a visit from **Sister Marta Acevedo Figueroa**, her niece **Ivette**, and Ivette's husband **Isaac**. Sister Marta and her husband **Rev. Virgilio Figueroa** were missionaries from Puerto Rico, and had pioneered a church and Bible School in Honduras. They graciously became our hosts in 1969, when we arrived with **Josie Bullock** and **Averil Hopwell**, our first missionary-directors. Brother Virgilio and Sister Marta greatly helped and encouraged us as we founded our home for needy children. Sister Marta was our interpreter and guide as we visited government offices and began the legal procedures for establishing the EMC ministry in Honduras. Now a widow, she continues to serve the Lord, with Ivette and Isaac in Comayagua, Honduras.

In April, we celebrated the **38th Anniversary** of the founding of *La Finca de Los Niños*. It is always a joy to see our kids who have come back for the celebration and to hear their testimonies of God's continued work in their lives. God is a redeemer, and their lives are living testimonies of His miraculous redeeming power. Their lives, which were once filled with loneliness and despair, are now filled with hope and purpose. God has gone before them and opened doors of blessing to them. Many have risen to places of leadership, and are faithfully serving the Lord.

During the celebration, we, together with some members of the **BGA/HSBC Bank**, dedicated the **first** new, beautiful **dormitory building** for the children. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was a time of great rejoicing (even with the rain), and all who attended were blessed. Afterwards, we enjoyed a feast. We all left full of gratitude, food, and expectation. The **next phase** of construction was now under way.

While waiting at the airport departure gate for our return flight home, I began to have **severe chest pains**. An ambulance was called and I was rushed to the hospital. A **pacemaker** was eventually implanted and I was taken back to the *Finca* for a time of recovery. After several days, the doctor cleared me for our return flight. We were most grateful as we boarded the plane and made our long journey home.

After we left, construction continued on the **2nd** and **3rd** housing units for the children. The major materials for this phase of the project were supplied by the **HSBC Bank Foundation**.

Hamish and Rachel MacDonald and family, after several years' absence, returned to the *Finca* to lend a helping hand during the months of June-July, and September-November.

During October, **Alonso, Michele** and their son **Josué Caleb** made a trip to Los Angeles so that Alonso could undergo surgery to remove a growth of *Pterygium* from his eye. Although it was a brief trip, they were able to visit a few churches, sponsors, and friends. While recovering, they were also blessed to make a trip to Fish Lake Valley, Nevada with **Harlan and Janelle Horst** to visit and enjoy fellowship at **Bob and Carrie Hartman's** farm. The surgery was a success and Alonso and Michele were eager to get back to Honduras.

During their absence, **Angel Cordoba** supervised the building and maintenance projects, while **María Elena**, with **Betty, Elda** and the rest of the **staff**, focused on the other needs of the *Finca*. They all did a wonderful job. The Lord has truly blessed us with a versatile group.

In **November**, several of our children graduated from local schools. **Bob Harris and the team from New Jersey** returned to help finish housing **units 2-3**, and begin **units 4-5**.

December was a busy month at the *Finca*. On the 14th, the **Dental Community Fellowship** of *Charleston, South Carolina*, sent a team led by **Dr. Bill Sasser**, to care for the dental needs of all the children and several of the staff. This was truly a blessing.

On the 15th, the **HSBC Bank Foundation** employees celebrated Christmas with the children by bringing food and presents for them all. They then joined us for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the two new beautiful housing units for the children. Much work went into these gatherings, and they were truly enjoyed.

On the 22nd we had a water baptismal service. This was a time of great rejoicing. While Brother Soady officiated, Alonso led songs of dedication and praise. **Rafael and Peter Paysen** baptized our twelve children with the help of **Sister María Elena**, who led each of the children in and out of the water.

Christmas was a time of further rejoicing for the children. Their **singing and nativity presentation glorified the Lord**. Each child received new clothing, toys, and a turn swinging at the piñata during the Christmas party. Sister María Elena later read the Christmas story to the children. It was a truly heartfelt occasion. Major sponsors of the event were: **Ray and Christine Taylor, family and friends** in the *U.K.*; **Dorothy Bennett and friends** of **Turning Point** in *North Wales*; and **David and Diana Swarengin** of *Southern California*. To each of these, the child sponsors, and the many others who supported this celebration with their gifts, we say thank you, your gifts made a difference.

When we returned home from Honduras, **Doris** suffered a **heart attack**. She was rushed to the hospital and had an emergency angioplasty procedure performed with a **coronary stent** implant. The Lord is gracious and her strength has returned. We are both looking forward to returning for the **39th Anniversary** celebration in April 2008.

Josie and Roque Carranza live near the *Finca* and enjoy their retirement. Josie struggles with the effects of long-term diabetes and other health issues, and needs a miraculous touch from God's healing

hand. Her medical bills and prescriptions are a real concern to her. Please continue to lift her before God in your prayers.

Planned projects for 2008 include the completion of two new dormitories for the children (units 4-5), and the repair of our school and library buildings that have been severely damaged by termites. When the school which most of our children attend closed at the end of the year, we opted to reopen our school rather than bus them to Tegucigalpa five days a week. Work teams are being scheduled to help with these and other smaller projects.

In the U.K. – **Bob and Edith Garrett** faithfully continued to represent these ministries. They have always been a source of strength to us, and their friendship and willingness to serve is a treasured gift. They faithfully give of themselves without the recognition or recompense that is truly due them.

I also want to express a sincere acknowledgment of appreciation to **Orvil Harris**. He has been a wonderful co-worker in this ministry for over twenty years, teaching from the pulpit and playing the piano for at least one service a week. He has also served as our bookkeeper, and given insightful counsel and advice. May God bless, reward, and meet his every need.

Although Orvil had planned to move on a year ago, he has graciously continued to serve the Lord at EMC in several vital roles while awaiting a replacement. Help is needed in various departments at EMC. Please continue to pray that every need will be supplied in God's time.

In closing, we want to thank our **Board of Directors** who have whole-heartedly prayed and labored with us throughout the year. We also want to thank **each of you** who have faithfully supported us with your love, efforts, prayers and sacrificial giving. We rejoice at your dedication and faithfulness, and reach out to you with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. ***We couldn't do it without you!*** Your faithfulness and commitment have meant more to us than you will ever know. The fruit of your sacrifice continues to grow, and treasure is laid up for you in heaven. **May God continue to bless you all**, as you labor with Him.

Your co-worker and prayer partner,

Ernest E. Soady