

CGGC Latino Ministries East--Vol. 9, No. 10--March 6, 2015



Caleb and Christina Acosta

A decade or so ago Brother Joe Musser called me about a Spanish speaking congregation meeting in the bethel of the Columbia, PA church where he was serving at the time. The ministry couple leading the work, Caleb and Christina Acosta, was interested in exploring a ministry partnership with the Churches of God, General Conference (CGGC). So, Joe arranged a meeting with the Acostas and the rest is history. From that single congregation the work expanded and now incorporates Spanish speaking congregations in Middletown, Reading, and York, PA. The connection also includes a Latino Conference in Venezuela with a dozen churches, as well as emerging works in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and elsewhere. Two years ago Caleb and Christina became directors of CGGC Latino Ministries, but they continue to minister at Columbia while seeking to develop Hispanic

Ministries in the USA and abroad.

Through the Acostas the CGGC is seeing a rising tide of new leaders desiring training to serve our Latino congregations in the Eastern Region. Last weekend Dr. Mike Walker and I taught the CGGC History and Polity class at Columbia, PA on Friday and Saturday for those students needing the course from Winebrenner Seminary. We had seven regular students, including Isaac Acosta (Caleb and Christina's oldest son), Italo and Eva Lezama from the Columbia church, Ricardo and Jeanette Perez from Middletown, and Daniel and Paola Sanchez from York. Pastors Jose and Ana Aquino from Reading intended to join in the class, but at the last minute had to cancel. We're hoping they can join in for the second set of classes in April.



The Columbia Church bethel



Polity Class (left to right): Christina Acosta, Eva & Italo Lezama, Paola & Daniel Sanchez, Ed Rosenberry, Jeanette & Ricardo Perez, Mike Walker, and Isaac Acosta



Dr. Mike Walker

We started each day at about 8:45 a.m. with devotions and ran until close to 4:30 p.m. on Friday and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday with an hour set for lunch at noon. It's a lot of instruction in a short timeframe to say the least. In this first set of classes I covered Churches of God history from Winebrenner to the present, and Mike covered various theological topics from a CGGC perspective. We alternate sessions so as not to get bogged down on any one subject. Both Mike and I attempt to give the classes a practical perspective and relate the topics presented to church life today. There's a fair amount of reading required for the class, but hopefully it has value for practical purposes in church life today. It's amazing how many historical issues have contemporary manifestations.



In the classroom



Ed's turn to teach



Special ladies who helped keep class members well fed

We concluded Saturday afternoon by going over the study papers expected by mid-March. After the second set of classes two additional reflection papers will be required. Beyond the reading assignments and class participation the four papers complete the course requirements. I've been over this material umpteen times now, but every class group provides a different group dynamic. Consequently I'm always learning new things from the students. This particular class group had the added interest of being bi-lingual and basically cross-cultural.



Eva Lezama leads worship



Ed preaches...



...as Christina Acosta translates

Sunday afternoon I returned to Columbia with Linda to worship with the *Iglesia de Dios Sanidad Divina* in their afternoon service.



Caleb and Christina launched this congregation a dozen years ago, and we've been there a number of other times. However, as a follow-up to two days of teaching it was a special treat to worship together. As usual, the service contained a lot of singing and this time interactive drama.



Scene from a chancel drama

Linda and Christina provided special music, and I spoke from Matthew 9 (with Christina translating) and encouraged the church to continually be outwardly focused.

I thank the Lord for the call from Joe Musser a decade or so ago that led to the expansion of our Latino ministries both in the states and now overseas. I suspect there's more to come than we've seen thus far. So, keep praying for Latino ministries, the Acostas, and open doors.

ONE Mission together,
Ed
Soli Deo Gloria!

Pine River Seeking a Pastor

The Pine River Church of God is currently seeking a Part-Time Pastor who is a strong Biblical preacher

with an emphasis on reaching those who need a relationship with God. Our church is located in central Michigan, 3 miles from the village of Vestaburg, which has approximately 2000 residents. Our church has been newly remodeled and currently has an average worship attendance of 40-45 on Sunday mornings which includes 10-12 children and youth. Our church is welcoming with very friendly people. We are looking for a pastor who reflects that same welcoming, friendly attitude and is serious about Biblical truth.

You may learn more about our church by visiting our Facebook page; PineRiver Church of God. You may also check out the website <http://pineriverchurchofgodmi.webstarts.com>. If you are interested in this ministry opportunity or have questions, please send a resume or express your interest by **April 30, 2015**. Send your email to the church email address: prcgmi@gmail.com or Pine River Church of God, P.O Box 326, Vestaburg, MI 48891. You may also contact Great Lakes Conference Director Earl Mills, glcdirector@cggc.org.



MAN-UP! Conference Coming to Scotland Campus

Scotland Campus
Christian Men, it is Time!
MAN-UP!
Conference for Christian Men
March 20th, Friday –Saturday
Registration 7:00PM
Ends Saturday at 2:30
Key Note Speaker: Ron Hostetler
Penn State/LA Rams/Speaker/Author
Comedy: David Dean
Band: Next2Nothing
Call 552-2220
for more details, register and get
your room assignment.
**\$75.00/pp includes event, meals,
room.**
Where Faith Comes to Life



WTS Presidential Search in Progress

With Dr. David Draper's approaching retirement, Winebrenner Theological Seminary, Findlay, Ohio is seeking its next President. Candidates should have an earned doctorate; organizational leadership and managerial skills; demonstrated ability to understand, articulate, and carry out fiscal, academic, and institutional responsibilities; a welcoming and affirming spirit for a broad range of theological perspectives while maintaining an evangelical position; an understanding of governance within theological education; the ability to communicate and network with a variety of constituencies; and the ability to support the school's mission, vision, core values and basic beliefs. Details will be posted at <http://www.winebrenner.edu>, and *curriculum vitae* may be sent to:

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