

Greetings:

WHAT IS GOING ON?

Here in Cabo San Lucas the days are clear and beautiful but the atmosphere has been a bit hazy. We are approaching our 12th year in Mexico serving as missionaries. Wow!! Who would have guessed?

Two and a half years ago we started a school for Leadership Training. It has been an incredible adventure, and I do like adventures. I stepped into this ministry having no idea what I was doing and yet God has been doing a mighty work here in Cabo. We have been bringing teachers from the states (all have a Master's or Doctorate degree and years of teaching experience worldwide) and we are blessed to have such quality teaching. The class subjects include Next Generation Leadership, Theology, Hermeneutics, Community Development, Revival, The Life of Christ, and The Epistles.

The students are in awe of the quality of teaching and are finding nuggets of golden resources to grow their personal lives, family and churches.

One student writes: "Hello, my name is Omar. In the last few months I have been thinking of all the benefits, blessings and opportunities I have had to meet other brothers in Christ who are also attending these classes. It is through the Leadership Training classes that my life, my work, my family and my church have been impacted. Gary stepped up to bring these classes here to Cabo and with his testimony and hard work has made a difference in many of our lives and these classes have brought many brothers and sisters in Christ together."

The teachers are excited to come down and teach and are at awe at the response and the hunger of these students. We are so thankful for their willingness to come and give up time away from their families and own ministries to serve for a week here in Cabo.

We started this season's classes back in November and we are starting the 5th class this week. We were only holding classes in Cabo San Lucas but decided to also have classes in San Jose del Cabo. The first year is always the hardest as it takes time to develop the confidence of the pastors/students in the teaching. When they find that it is sound biblical teaching they take ownership and are then hungry for more classes. There are as many as 25 students at each location, sometimes more and sometimes fewer.

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH US?

For the first time in almost 12 years our support has dropped to a level that we cannot survive on.

I made a 5 year commitment, 3 years ago, to bring quality classes to resource and equip the pastors in Cabo San Lucas and even to other parts of Mexico. I am not questioning God in this dilemma. I feel that those of you who are reading this letter can only respond in prayer and support if you know the facts.

There are two different needs that we feel that we should present to you.

OUR PERSONAL SUPPORT. This takes care of basic living costs, visas, traveling costs, medical costs, car expenses, etc. We are down more than half our normal support at this time. We are looking to raise it back to normal if we can.

I would like to share another testimony from a pastor:

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord:

My name is Luis, I am a pastor and missionary in Baja Sur Mexico. By grace we have 3 churches in different communities where many souls are listening to the Word of God and coming to salvation in Christ.

As myself, there are many other workers with a passion to serve our Lord, unfortunately, we do not have choices to prepare as ministers and we have been praying for God to equip us according to His will.

In answer to our prayers, God has sent classes for pastors and leaders through the ministry of our brother Gary Sheveland, our dear brother in Christ who has been ministering in our city as a missionary and now is training and teaching us more about God and how to serve him. Thanks to these classes, we have been seeing more fruit through our ministries by sharing and applying what we learn from these classes.

Also, unfortunately, there is a cost to make these classes happen and we do not have the resources to cover the expenses of the trips of the teachers etc. because most of us are dedicated to the work full-time and work with the poor in the neighborhoods or villages in our area. So, I encourage you, beloved brothers and sisters, to join this wonderful ministry of training leaders, helping us to grow as ministers by your contributions to Gary's ministry. Open your hearts because we need for this to continue, the growth is visible so we ask to you to support the things we have been praying for: teachings that help us to serve better. In love: Luis, servant of our Lord Jesus.

THE SCHOOL: The school costs are about \$500-600 a month in order to bring down a teacher. That includes their airfare, a place to stay and food. We also have the extra cost of travel back and forth to classes, supplies etc. We have asked the students to pay for each class and some do and others do not. They struggle and we would rather they come to the classes without paying than to not come at all. We have received donations to help cover these costs but many times it comes out of our pockets.

We have another brother in Christ that we have known for quite some time now. He has done a lot of the translation for the teachers in the class. He wanted to give a testimony also.

“As a personal friend for over 7 years to Gary and Pam Sheveland I have been blessed with their ministry to the Los Cabos and Baja California Sur churches. I am part of the team of translators who help out in the Seminary classes for Pastors and Leaders that currently has reached out and touched the lives of the servants who are responsible of maybe half of the formal churches and missions in the Los Cabos region.

This single vision alone has endured the test of times going into their third year bringing Pastors, Leaders and Biblical Scholars to teach and interact with the local leaders in ways to improve their ministries in all aspect; from church planting, growth, finances, discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, mentoring as well as Greek, Hermeneutics, theology and sound biblical principles that are crucial to many of these Pastors and leaders that have little or no access to these tools and teachings.

These seminars have been solely supported by Gary and Pam and a few loving brothers who believe in Jesus calling for making disciples. For those who have spent time with this incredible and loving couple will know that they are not the type of Christians that want to tell the world what they are doing for the Lord and it will take a book to write down all the hundreds of lives that they have impacted here in Cabo with their teams of ordinary people who have come to help in medical outreaches, health fairs, construction work on houses or churches, doing VBS with kids, and giving these volunteers the opportunity to touch the lives of the people in Mexico as well as being touched by the people they help and about the teachers and countless others that have dedicated time, money, prayers and support to their calling and love for our local churches and the body of Christ.

Gary and Pam have been key instruments used by the Lord in support to our sport ministry teaching kids thru soccer the Good News of Salvation and the networking done with Bajachristians.com.mx

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=KB1xOY1hzDY&NR=1>

I ask our Lord and Saviour to touch the hearts of anyone who reads this letter to be moved by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit in order to become a part of this crucial ministry to the Los Cabos area. Dare to be a part of this harvest, plant your seed in good soil, pray for Gary and Pam that God continues to give them strength, passion and love for this land. We need your support to help them continue serving our community with the passion and love that Jesus has put in them for all this years.
Ramon Ascencio

Missions is sometimes viewed as a way of helping children, giving food and clothing to the needy, to teaching the bible to those who have not heard of God's love and making sure they have the opportunity to pray and receive Jesus as their Savior. We are all for this viewpoint. We both grew up in churches that were very mission minded and we heard many amazing testimonies from missionaries from around the world. Cabo San Lucas is an interesting mission site. On one side we have American tourists who come to party, spend lots of money and enjoy the beauty that is here. We have the middle class and upper middle class Mexicans who work/own businesses here. We then have the Mexican workers that can do well if they are good at whatever their trade is and then we have the ones that can only get the lowest paid jobs. We have seen a lot of growth in the last 11 years where jobs were plentiful and many people moved here for work. In the last 2-3 years the economy has dropped, but prices keep going up. Many of the men must return back to their homes on the mainland to find work leaving their families behind. Sometimes they do not come back. There is also the normal drug abuse, sexual abuse, spousal abuse etc. As you have read in these testimonies a lot of the pastors do not have a formal bible education. They want to see their churches grow but if they cannot give hungry people the Word of God so that they will grow strong then those people turn away to find something else to fill them. We are seeing so many of the pastors coming to these classes grow and we are seeing their churches grow with faithful people. This is how we see our ministry, a way of sustaining the pastors so that they have the right tools to grow their people. Yes, it is important to reach out and share God's love and see people pray to receive Christ, but they need to also know God's Word and His promises in order to grow strong. That is why we have this school.

Please pray about supporting us and/or the school. We do not believe it is time to leave Mexico but if we cannot sustain a living then maybe it is God's plan for us to go.

If you decide to help send to: Gary and Pam Sheveland
c/o Mexican Medical Ministries
7850 Lester Ave.
Lemon Grove, CA 91945

Mark whether it is for personal support or school support.

With God's blessings and love,

Gary Sheveland

Associate Professor of Hope International University and Mexican Medical Missionary.

Pam Sheveland

Associate Wife of Gary and Mexican Medical Missionary

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*