

# Lost Sheep Ministry News

## February 2018--Nicaragua

**The Great Commission:** Matthew 28: 18 - 20 is a commission for ***all*** Christians to ***go, make Disciples, baptize them,*** and ***teach*** them to ***OBEY*** all that I have commanded . LSM is dedicated to evangelizing the lost and making Disciples of Christ that make Disciples of Christ according to II Timothy 2:2.



### Notes from Pastor Bob:

Jon Friesen, John Dainwood, and I teamed up to take the Gospel of Jesus to other lands in obedience to Acts 1:8. We will minister at the Hodera (Alcohol and Drug Recovery Center) in Nicaragua from February 2 to February 12, 2018.

The Hodera is a wonderful fishing hole for Jesus. We try to revisit the Hodera at least once each year and we always have fresh encounters with Jesus' manifest presence. We tend to think that each trip is the

greatest but they are all exhilarating experiences as we participate in the transformation of lives and witness their movement from the world of darkness into the Kingdom of God.



**Saturday, February 3rd:** We (Jon Friesen, John Dainwood, and I) arrived in Managua last night at 9:05 pm. This is John D.'s first visit to a foreign land having been imprisoned in the Texas penal system for over 36 years. He is now on parole with Jesus.

Jairo, Linda, and Mario met us at the airport. What joy captures my heart to see these dear ones whom I love so much. Jairo is pastoring La Roca church located near San Marcos just south of Managua. We stopped at a gas station to get a drink and listen as John Dainwood shared a brief testimony of the power of God in our lives. Nothing is impossible for God! We drove to the hotel and arrived at about midnight.

**Sunday 8 am:** Yesterday we visited with Margarita early to pick up some pan (bread) to take to the Hodera. She is a wonder lady of God and a great prayer warrior and soul-winner. She has several photos of me, which reminds her to pray for me and wife Carol every day. We were walking towards mid-town to get a jitney to ride to the Hodera. I was getting tired so Jon prayed that God would send a ride and there he was. Nelson, Margarita's son, stopped his truck and picked us up and drove us to the Hodera. I wish I could adequately express the look on John Dainwood's face. We introduced ourselves to the men and two ladies at the Hodera and explained what we would be doing for the next week: Testimonies, preaching, teaching, and a movie each night.

Last night we had a glitch and couldn't show the movie but both Jon and John shared. We had brought soda and chips, which were bought by donations from the men at the Bay Area Recovery Center (BARC) in Dickinson, TX. Each one took the envelope with the person's name that had donated and wrote a thank you note (in Spanish) to them. I was able to share gifts from Lifeway Christian Book store. Wow! The angels, tote bags, and teddy bears all brought big smiles from all. We had a good night representing Jesus Christ to these dear ones that He loves so dearly. He wants to see them reconciled to His Father by faith in His atoning work on the cross. I know from experience that many eternal destinies will be changed this week as we declare the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit in love. I am honored to be called, chosen, and sent. Thank you Jesus.



**Monday 8 am:** Yesterday was an awesome day serving the Lord. We attended nearby La Roca church. The smiles on the peoples face as they entered the church and saw us and came over to hug us was wonderful. Actually, their expression of love brought tears to my eyes. I told them how great the joy in my heart was to see them again. I shared from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

I introduced John Dainwood. He shared his testimony and a message of the importance of bringing up a child in the way they should go. That's what his mother did for him. After his conviction for capital murder and a 36-year stay in prison, John was saved, and discipled. He became a "maker of disciples" while in prison. God answered his mother's prayers and John was paroled, and is now living with his mother. She makes the crocheted crosses for us to give away on our mission trips. John is now on parole in the state of Texas, but God has him here in Nicaragua with me to share the marvelous Word. John brought all the children up to surround him as he shared his message. It was a powerful visual.

Jon Friesen then closed with what God had put on his heart and the altar became filled with almost the entire congregation coming forward for prayers.

John, Jon, and I were used mightily by the



Holy Spirit to minister to these folks He so dearly loves. We then travelled to the Hodera to meet with Miguel Lopez, the director, and outlined our plans for the week to minister at the Hodera: Bible study each morning and afternoon from 9 – 11 am and 2 – 4 pm, and Movie each night from 7 – 9:30.

We went outside to minister to the family members of the Hodera who visit each Sunday. I gave a “Daily Bread” booklet to each family member. We met with the men after their families had left and had fun with a Pinata filled with candy. After all, all men still have the little boy in them. It was so great to hear and see their laughter.

I then shared with the men about their future: Eternity, Life-Death - Heaven-Hell, Bema Seat Great White Throne, and Judgment.

*27 men and 2 ladies responded by coming forward to pray to receive Christ as Lord and Saviour.* Wow, it is only 4 p.m. and God has already miraculously worked in their hearts.

Last night we showed the Movie “*Something to Sing About*”. After the movie Pastor Jairo shared the importance of believer’s baptism. Our plan is to have a baptism service on Saturday.

During the discussion of the movie, the men shared brief comments about what the movie said to them. A man began to weep. God’s Holy Spirit really convicted this man and he shared as I hugged him

**Tuesday, Feb 6, 2018 (Jon Friesen’s birthday):** Yesterday was an eventful day. We started in the morning with the intention to have Pastor Jairo teach on our first basic Christianity class written entitled The Bible. Well let me say I am glad the Holy Spirit took over. There were two men at the Hodera planning to quit and leave. One had plans for suicide. Therefore, Jairo and Jon went outside to minister to them. We sang some praise songs. John Dainwood shared, and we kept waiting for Pastor Jairo to come back to teach.

We have a two-hour time slot and time was passing quickly. I decided to give them a 15-minute break but they did not come back in 15 minutes, 20 minutes, or 25 minutes. I got mad! When they returned, I displayed my anger by telling them, "You have disrespected me. There are many other locations in Nicaragua I can take my team to share God’s truth". I left to return to our hotel to pray. I suggested they do the same.

I know that this took Jon & John by surprise as it did all who were there. We went to the hotel, but I was already praying and realized that I was wrong because I displayed my anger towards them rather than love. John told me that the men told him to tell me that they were sorry. Well, I was sorry too.

We didn’t return until the evening session. On the way we were able to pick up 100 Bibles from the local Gideon leader in San Marcos. The men and women gathered around me and the translator told me they were sorry for not respecting me and our teams time with them. They gave me a big hug and then lifted me on their shoulders.

I apologized to them and told them that God made it very clear to me that He loved them and had sent Jon, John and I to them to preach and teach the wonderful Word of God. I too asked them for their forgiveness. Forgiving is GOOD!



We showed the movie *The Ride*. We then gave the men opportunity to share their comments. I shared briefly my feeling when I saw the cowboy squirming in his seat while Franklin Graham was preaching. I told them about Psalm Sunday 1973 when I was squirming in my seat while Pastor Fred Harrison was preaching *right at me!* The difference from the movie is I didn't leave and go back to the bar. I ran to the altar as "*Just as I Am*" was being sung and I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. There are some here today who are squirming, and this is your opportunity. You can run, OR you can



come forward and make today your spiritual birthday. **5 men came forward to receive Christ. PTL!** I'm so glad that God forgives and continues to use me. Are you? I am looking forward to what God has prepared for me today. Are you?

I leave you today with this: *"For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us*

*to live]" Ephesians 2:10 AMP.*

**Friday 7:30 am:** I have been coming to the Hodera since 1995 and have seen the power of God repeatedly. We have the joy of watching these dear ones hear the Gospel message, receive the message, and be saved. Then grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ by reading their new Bibles and share their testimonies. Today we will receive communion and have a foot washing. John, Jon, Jairo, and I will wash their feet. Last Night we watched *God is Not Dead 2*. The men and ladies are receiving great truths through these movies and they hear again what we (our ministry team) have been teaching in our Bible Study lessons. Tonight we will show the movie called "*The Rapture*". Tomorrow night we will show *The Passion of Christ*. Whew, it has been an awesome week.



After the morning session yesterday we travelled to Jinotepe to a hospital to visit a pastor who was there who had a heart attack the day before. We were not able to see him he was in ICU and going to be transferred to Managua. We met with his wife and prayed for her and was able to bless her with prayer and a love offering to help with expenses. God is so GOOD!

Yesterday we arrived at the Hodera to have our Baptism service. We began with prayer and then praise with the group singing *Draw Me Near to You* and *How Great is Our God*. Pastor Jairo then shared the importance of believer's baptism and scriptural instruction for obedience for baptism.



We started with the ladies as the men remained inside. The baptism pool is a small children's plastic swimming pool which I purchas

Pastor Jairo gave a powerful message on the importance of obedience. I was asked by Marcos to dedicate his son Marcos Jr. to the Lord. Marcos owns the Pizza to Go shop in San Marcos and he constantly serves us while we are there. He speaks excellent English since he

lived in Maryland for several years. I conducted the dedication service and then I led the church in receiving Communion.

After church, I picked up copies of photos of the baptisms to give to each one baptized on Saturday. I went out to the Hodera with Linda and presented the TV set to Miguel for the woman's home. I also gave him the photos to deliver. On my way to leave Juan Rodriguez, one of the men who was saved and baptized ran over and asked me to come and meet his family. (Sundays are visitation days for men & women at the Hodera.) I met his wife and two other couples visiting him. One of the men was not saved and the three wives's took me aside and told me that he was not saved, and please go talk with him. They separated themselves and prayed as I shared Christ with the man and he responded and prayed to accept the Lord. I then told him to go over and tell the women "today is my spiritual birthday, I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart today".

Wow, the hugs and tears were so awesome and joyful. I continually ask God for "one more soul Lord".

I then went to Pizza to Go where the La Rocca church members were preparing to give Jon Friesen a surprise birthday party. John walked in and was so surprised when they shouted "SURPRISE" and sang *happy birthday*.



What a wonderful time to see God's family loving on one another!



At 5 pm, Jairo drove us to our hotel near the airport. We got up at 5:00 am to catch our 7:15 am flight to Houston. Again, I am amazed at how God formed our team. Thank you John Dainwood and Jon Friesen for your love and support as we again experienced the Holy Spirit using our individual gifts to work together in His kingdom. I look forward to our trip next month to The Philippines. God bless y'all for your prayers and financial support.

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**Comments by John Dainwood about his first International trip will be issued as a second LSM Newsletter.**

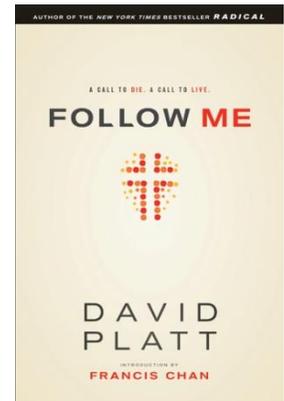
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**Recommended Reading: Follow Me** by David Platt.

Is it possible for people to say they believe in Jesus but not truly be born again? Is it possible for people to claim they have accepted Christ into their hearts yet not actually be Christians?

Not only is it possible, but according to Pastor David Platt, it is highly probable. The author of the bestselling book *Radical* is convinced that many people in our churches today are misled as to what it truly means to be a follower of Christ. Western culture has drained the lifeblood out of Christianity and replaced it with a watered down version of the gospel that is so palatable it is not even real anymore.

Available from Amazon.com. Paperback \$15.99 or Kindle \$9.39.



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