

Brief Report

From Dewayne, Rita, and Antonio Shappley

April 19, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we do pray you are enjoying many blessings of all kinds, and more than ever as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to complicate and threaten life around the Globe.

It pleases me to inform you that Rita's condition after open-heart surgery January 27 steadily improves, with some days better than others as is to be expected. We are back to just about 100% normal since she is taking care of most of the domestic chores. She still allows me to help some in the kitchen. Says I make the best cornbread she has ever eaten! And French toast!

We are also very, very thankful for Sister Lynda Riddick's continued positive recovery from open-heart surgery the week of February 14. Lynda, of the Cairo, TN church, takes care of the fund for us and the spiritual works we are privileged to carry on, thanks to the generosity of all who contribute.

During the last four months, or so, I have printed:

32,500 tracts of five different titles for evangelists and congregations in Venezuela.

29 copies of the McGarvey commentary on Acts (Spanish. 292 pages)

20 copies of the book on music in worship. (Spanish. 139 pages)

20 copies of a new book on "*The Woman and the Beasts of Revelation*." (Spanish. 242 letter-size pages; 243 graphics. Line spacing of 16 points, making the text easy to read.)

This book is Chapter 8, with improved formatting, of the commentary "*Revelation: An Analysis of the Prophecies and Visions*." (Spanish. About 1,200 letter-size pages.)

100 additional copies of the 28-page booklet on tithes of the Old Testament, their abolition, and the finances of the church according to the New Testament.

227 more compact disks of hymns in Spanish by Antonio have also been made.

1,883,169 is the total of all materials produced to date in Broward County, Florida according to the spreadsheet Antonio and I maintain.

Churches of Christ in Venezuela

With regard to evangelistic materials and benevolent works, most of our energy, resources, and production continue to be directed toward Venezuela, where many Christians are still proclaiming the gospel even though the Covid-19 plague is as bad, if not worse, than ever because of the dangerous Brazilian variant that has crossed the border between the two countries.

In efforts to control the pandemic, the government shuts down, almost completely, whole sections of the country, complicating even more the work of evangelists and other active members. Also making it even more difficult for many to obtain the basics of life.

We are glad to be in a position to help some.

73 more boxes packed April 10



April 10, 2021. Antonio and 10 volunteers from the West Broward church, Plantation, Florida, packed 73 boxes for Venezuela. Mostly food. **3,852 pounds.**

The boxes are going to 14 different locations where the food will be much appreciated by the ministers, congregations, and members of the surrounding communities.



Above. Loading the church bus with food purchased at Sam's. Right. Packing in the hall of the classroom wing of the West Broward church facility. Room 109, where packing is usually done, was too full of clothes and shoes. These are to be packed April 24, Lord willing.

Motorola has a program to help employees carry out benevolent works. Approached by Antonio, the company gave \$15,000.00 for the purchase of food and clothing destined for Venezuela through the Venezuela Relief Fund of the West Broward church.

In a report to the West Broward elders, Antonio wrote:

With contributions received, ministers in Venezuela cook meals and invite a mix of church members, friends, and neighbors to partake.

The ministers are also imparting the gospel of salvation to those who receive food, making contacts for Bible studies.

We are now working with a minister that is helping an orphanage where children are going hungry.

More tracts for evangelistic work in Venezuela

In addition to the 32,500 tracts mentioned at the beginning, we project printing a much larger number during coming weeks. According to communications Antonio maintains regularly, particularly with 14 evangelists for whom he has a high regard, previous shipments of tracts have been mostly exhausted.

Recently, I listened to a detailed audio report from one of the evangelists on how they use the tracts almost every day by going to central points and setting up a display stand of them, indicating to people who approach that they may select titles of interest. He added that they were almost totally out of tracts.

When the boxes of supplies being sent arrive and the contents are divided and sacked for individual distribution, tracts are included in the sacks.

Only the Lord knows how many of the people being converted in Venezuela are taught and or motivated, at least in part by the tracts.

Hundreds were baptized in 2020 despite Covid-19, and souls continue to be converted this year, as the pictures selected for this report confirm.

The evangelistic team of the 400 member Barinas congregation writes:

April 11, 2021. "We are always giving thanks to God for the help given to the work in Barinas. By his grace and mercy, we continue in his service. Even in the midst of so many restrictions and local challenges, the Word of God is being preached and received for his glory and honor." Kleiner Salazar, David Sosa and others make up the team.

Some of those baptized in Barinas, Venezuela thus far in 2021





During the COVID-19 plague, the Barinas church has been allowed to meet only once in this large, rented theater. The \$100 monthly rent has been paid through the Venezuela Relief Fund to avoid losing this facility the 400 member congregation needs when all may once again meet there regularly.

“Bicycles for Ministers”

When Antonio became aware that many evangelists in Venezuela were having considerable difficulty visiting members, setting up and being present for small meetings of members, and doing follow-up teaching of interested contacts, simply because they had no means of transportation, he and the elders of the West Broward church launched the “Bicycles for Ministers Initiative.”

To date, \$1,840.00 have been received for the purchase of bikes.

Eight bikes and one scooter have been purchased so far, with more purchases in progress.

Used bikes are in high demand, with pricing trending up. The cost is running about \$100 each.

Even obtaining bikes offered for sale has become more and more difficult because of the severe COVID-19 restrictions on going out even for food or medicine.

Ciudad: <u>Carupano</u>	Dis: <u>5</u> Mes: <u>2</u> Año: <u>21</u>	Nº: <u>01</u>
He(mos) recibido del: <u>Daniel Andarcia V 690906</u>		
La Cantidad de: <u>cinco Veinte dólares exactos</u>		
Por Concepto: <u>venta de Bici para #25</u>		
Cuota Nº: <u>6187050</u>	Bs. <u>120 \$</u>	Ci: <u>6187050</u>



Above, left. Five preaching brethren with the bicycles obtained for them.

Above, right. One of the five is Daniel Andarcia, evangelist in Carúpano, a coastal city. The receipt above him is for the purchase of the bicycle, a requirement for any preacher who is sent funds to obtain one.



Left. A small-group gathering of the church in El Roble, Venezuela. When, because of their size, congregations are prohibited from meeting in the same place, small groups of this kind are an option for continued edification and fellowship.

In December 2020, **350 brethren** and **50 visitors** met in **Cocolí, Venezuela** for an **“End of the year supper and fellowship.”**

Five congregations participated: Cocolí, Morro de Puerto Santo, La Llamada, La Cisterna, and another the brother who sent the report and pictures could not remember. We can only hope COVID-19 did not attend!



Daniel Andarcia and Pedro Fidel, elders of the Church of Christ in Carúpano, Venezuela.

Right. Evangelist Luis Mujica, of the El Roble, Venezuela Church of Christ, sent these pictures of four people baptized in March 2021. Their names are: Yordano Collante, Nataly Santaella, Enderson Millán, and Luis' son, Eliab Mujica.

Bautismos

Este mes se bautizaron en la congregación de El Roble 4 personas, Yordano Collante, Nataly Santaella, Enderson Millan y mi hijo Eliab Mujica. Les damos la bienvenida a estos nuevos hermanos.



More food, medicines, Bibles, and tracts arrive in Venezuela!



The latest shipment to be received from us in that country was 57 boxes sent January 13, 2021
The following pictures were selected from many sent by the evangelistic team of the Barinas, Venezuela Church of Christ



This report was prepared by Dewayne, with information provided by Antonio and some evangelists in Venezuela.

These works are possible only because so many both in the USA and Venezuela care so much, work so hard, and are so generous.

"For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do." Hebrews 6:10

If you would like to help purchase more food for the needy in Venezuela, contributions designated for that purpose may be sent to the Fund for our work administered by the Cairo, TN church. We would buy the food, in bulk, at Sam's and send receipts. Send to: Cairo Church of Christ, Venezuela Relief, c/o Larry Harper, 82 Lee Circle, Alamo, TN 38001