

Teaching Wednesday night classes for the Spanish-speaking West Broward congregation, Plantation, Florida

I began a series Wednesday, May 1, 2019, Part I being entitled “*The Child Jesus of Nazareth: From His Conception to Twelve Years of Age.*” Part II is: “*Jesus of Nazareth: From Twelve to His Baptism at Thirty Years of Age.*” The purpose is to identify, as much as each participant can, with Jesus as he grows up, travels to Jerusalem every year, sees and meets all kinds of people in many different situations and takes on fully our humanity. That he may comprehend entirely our nature in its multifaceted physical, moral and spiritual aspects, and thereby, become not only our Savior but also our “*great High Priest,*” understanding and compassionate to the highest degree, having faced the temptations, dilemmas and trials we do on the fields of spiritual war-fare. In Part I, mistaken perceptions of him as a child and youth are dealt with, especially a plethora of myths created by the Israelite philosopher Thomas and subsequent Roman Catholic teachers and writers.



4 años en Egipto



26 años en Nazaret

En las etapas de niño, adolescente, joven y adulto joven, Jesús **CRECÍA...** en **CONOCIMIENTO** y sabiduría, fortaleciendo su espíritu. Lucas 2:40 y 52.

¿Crecía normalmente? La **LUZ** de Filipenses 2:6-8



Jesús, “*siendo en forma de Dios... se despojó a sí mismo, tomando forma de siervo, hecho semejante a los hombres... se humilló a sí mismo, haciéndose obediente a la muerte...*”

¿De qué cosas se despojó el unigénito Hijo de Dios cuando accedió encarnarse? ¿Se despojó de su CUERPO celestial?

¿Se despojó de su GLORIA celestial?

¿Se despojó de su CONOCIMIENTO celestial?

¿Se despojó de sus PODERES celestiales?

¿Qué significa “hecho SEMEJANTE a los hombres”?

¿Debía APRENDER la OBEDIENCIA?

¿Cómo la aprendió?

¿Debía ser perfeccionado?

So far, **78 slides** have been developed for the five-part series. Animations are used to fill in each slide with vital elements. **Left:** The fourth slide of Part I. Translation of text elements beginning in the upper, left corner, is as follows.

4 years in Egypt. 26 years in Nazareth.

In the stages of child, adolescent, teenager and young adult, Jesus **GREW...** in **KNOWLEDGE** and wisdom, strengthening his spirit. Luke 2:40 and 52.

HE GREW! Did he grow normally?

Light from Philippians 2:6-8.

Jesus “*made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in*

appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death...” [Note: For “*made Himself of no reputation*” the footnote for the New King James Version says: “*emptied himself of his privileges,*” and the 1960 Reina Valera Version, in Spanish, conveys exactly this sense of the expression.]

Of what things did the only begotten Son of God empty himself when he agreed to become incarnate?

Did he lay aside his celestial **BODY**?

Did he empty himself of his celestial **GLORY**?

Did he empty himself of his celestial **KNOWLEDGE**?

Did he empty himself of his celestial **POWERS**?

What is the meaning of “*coming in the likeness of men?*”

Did he have to learn obedience? How did he learn it? Did he have to be perfected?

These types of questions are stirring up lively class participation.



Dewayne Shapple teaching, in Spanish, Wed. night classes during May, 2019. About 20 were present, the right side and back of the large room not visible in this photo.

Invited to speak at the “Annual Nationwide Fellowship of Churches of Christ in the Dominican Republic”

In late November, 2018, the “**Committee for the Annual Nationwide Fellowship of Churches of Christ in the Dominican Republic**” invited me to attend the all-day fellowship planned for Feb. 27, 2019. As stated by their representative, evangelist David de la Cruz, their purpose was to express, at the fellowship, their **appreciation for our contributions, while we were in Puerto Rico, to the growth of the church in their country.**

Well do I remember my first visit to the Dominican Republic, in 1969, for a week-long gospel meeting with the Ensanche Espaillat congregation in the capital city of Santo Domingo. Exciting days of evangelism and fellowship, the fruit of which was eight baptisms. The Espaillat congregation continues to exist, has grown to 90 members and has four elders, David de la Cruz being one of them.

During the following years, I made many, many trips to the Dominican Republic, preaching meetings, giving conferences, carrying out benevolent works -especially after the terrific destruction caused by hurricanes David and Fredrick, in 1979- serving as translator and chauffeur for stateside elderships supporting preachers and works in that country, etc. We also sent a lot of printed materials over there, and carried considerable quantities when a ferry was operating between Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Just two examples of fruits produced by the literature. **Pascual Pérez** was a young Pentecostal preacher when he read one of the multiple page tracts someone threw through the open window of his house in **Santo Domingo**. He was converted and became a dynamic evangelist for Churches of Christ, establishing at least two congregations, one of which has 150 members. Now in his late seventies, he is still active. Just a few years ago, when he visited the Bayamon, Puerto Rico church, he preached one of the very best sermons I have ever heard! In English or Spanish!

Prudencio Acosta Medina was a school teacher and denominational church leader in **Paraíso, Dominican Republic**, when he requested, and received, from us a package of literature. He shared the material with other leaders of the church he attended. **They all decided to become members of the church of Christ!** Informed of their decision, brethren from Santo Domingo went down to that southwestern Dominican Republic town and **baptized seventeen of them the same day!** All of them remained faithful to the end of their spiritual sojourn. Many more people were baptized in the coming weeks and months, the church of Christ becoming the largest church in the town. From there, three more congregations were established in the area. I had the great privilege of preaching in those congregations. Retiring from teaching, Prudencio was supported by the Alamo, TN church for a number of years. Several years ago, he died *“in the Lord.”*

Tremendous contributions, over a span of at least four decades, have also been made to the growth of churches of Christ in several areas of the Dominican Republic by some congregations in **Puerto Rico**. Particularly by those in **Cieba, Gurabo and Bayamon**. Congregations the Lord used us to begin in Puerto Rico. Familiar with what they have done, I am rather certain I do not err by putting their total investment, to date, close to, or perhaps more than, \$500,000.00. Support of evangelists, construction of meeting places and other facilities, plus extensive benevolent works.

In 1969, as I recall, there were perhaps 25 congregations, more or less, in the Dominican Republic.

Today, there are some **160 congregations** throughout the country, with **more than 50 in the capital city of Santo Domingo alone.**

From **4,000 to 5,000** members and visitors were expected to attend the Nationwide Fellowship in February.

I was greatly honored by the invitation to attend, which included being the principal speaker for the occasion. And, was to be presented a parchment, or plaque, in recognition for aid provided for the developing church in the Dominican Republic.

Due to a number of circumstances, which I opt not to relate here, but did communicate to the Committee, I very reluctantly decided not to accept the invitation.

Baptized 47 years later!

Barrio Cubuy, Canovanas, Puerto Rico. December, 2018. In a telephone conversation with Bro. José Rodríguez, of the Barrio Cubuy church, he informed me **Amalio Rivera** had just been baptized. Amalio participated in evangelistic studies I presented in Barrio Cubuy **47 years ago!** He told José the studies made a serious impact on him at that time, but he was young, and went his way without obeying the gospel. He became a policeman. However, Amalio did not entirely forget those lessons. Last December, he decided to visit the Barrio Cubuy congregation and was baptized that first Sunday he attended! Lamenting, as he commented to José, the years he had *“lost”* while *“in the world.”* Now he is very active in the church, accompanying José in evangelistic works, visits to the sick, etc.

Recently (March, 2019), Amalio's wife, **Belén Vásquez**, was also baptized in Cubuy. She was serving as the secretary of the local Catholic Church. Now the nuns will not even speak to her! Amalio and Belén live very close to the meeting place in Cubuy.

Three more people have also been baptized recently in Cubuy, according to a telephone conversation Rita had with Sis. Lucy Camilo, of that congregation. Lucy observed that visitors from the community often come to meetings of the church. A good sign, indeed, of an active church.

Today (April 17, 2019), when I called Cheo (as almost all call José) to give him some information about Iris Reyes, baptized in West Broward where we attend, now living in Humacao, Puerto Rico, he answered from **El Salvador!** There with a group of six members from Puerto Rico on an annual benevolent-medical-evangelistic trip to the Pacific coast area of that country. As many as twelve, or more, have been making that trip for some fifteen years, to areas *“so poor that not even the bad guys go there,”* as Cheo observed.

This year, a crew from **Imagen Televisión** interviewed him and some of the people being helped. Cheo was excited about how well the interviews went and the free publicity the church of Christ in El Salvador, as well as in Puerto Rico, was getting in this way. The TV crew asked to be informed of future visits by Puerto Rican brethren to El Salvador. The interview may be seen on **YouTube, Imagen TV, El Salvador.**



Rolando Salinas, of **Costa Rica**, attended the Spanish services of the Iglesia de Cristo West Broward, Plantation, Florida, May 26, 2019, and came by Room 109, where we were packing supplies for Venezuelan brethren.

With a big smile, he said, paraphrasing: *"I have wanted to meet you, When I was growing up in Costa Rica, we would often go out and distribute tracts prepared by you and sent to us."*

E-mails and Telephone Calls



Mayayigua, Cuba. May 9, 2019. *“With best wishes for your wellbeing and peace for you, I write you from Cuba. My name is Osvanys Denis Pérez. I have been a pastor for 24 years, working with a Christian congregation in its activities. We also have various evangelistic outreaches in difficult to reach rural zones in the Central Region of the island. Two days ago, a person showed me your magnificent tract ‘The Business of Pastoring.’ I assure you it is a magnificent study that speaks very clearly to an actual situation that I believe we are living not only in Cuba but in the rest of the whole world. I am writing to earnestly ask, please, if it is possible, and within your power, to send all the copies you can of this tract, for they would be very useful here, not to contend, but, from an evangelistic standpoint, to take the truth of the gospel to people in need of light for their lives.”*

Osvanys goes on to concisely and graphically describe the shameless merchandising of prosperity gospel pastors in Cuba. I translated his observations and published them on editoriallapaz, under the title (from Spanish) *“In CUBA: The Shameful Conduct of Prosperity Gospel Pastors,”* with a subtitle by Osvanys: *“Abuses and Excesses of Some Pastors Who Feed Themselves.”*

I sent Osvanys a set of tracts, including several copies of *“The Business of Pastoring.”* And tried to send him a larger package of materials, but the post office computer would not process it, though it should have, according to guidelines for Cuba.

Osvanys’ letter was postmarked March 23, 2019, and was received here about six weeks later.

This man studied in a Baptist school, but does not place much importance on that, as he himself says in his letter. Indeed, his treatment of different matters indicates an open, rather mature mindset. In my reply, I kindly urged him to study objectively the biblical purpose of baptism and the fallacy of “once saved always saved.” Unfortunately, he does not have access to many relevant studies on editoriallapaz, for Internet service is not available in the mountainous area where he lives.

Brooklyn, New York. April 12, 2019. We sent 6,000 tracts to a one-year old congregation in Brooklyn. Bro. Víctor Cornejo is the contact there. This young congregation has rented a meeting place and we printed local data on all the tracts. In a telephone conversation, Víctor observed: *“The content of the tracts is very good.”* At least part of the expense of printing and shipping the tracts will be paid for by the Northwest Church of Christ, Fort Worth, Texas.

Cuitzeo, Michoacán, México. April 23, 2019. *“Brethren, may God bless you greatly. Could you please help us with the tract ‘The Church that Christ Built,’ and all other tracts for the evangelization of the city of Cuitzeo? Printing on each one the meeting place of the Church of Christ in Cuitzeo: Calle Fray Alonso de la Veracruz # 12-A, Colonia, Centro Rumbo al Calvario, Cuitzeo, Michoacán.”* Josué Espinoza Flores

Lord willing, we will comply with Josué’s request for 3,000 tracts.

San Juan and Bayamon, Puerto Rico. April 12, 2019. Sis. Amarillis Guzmán, of the Río Piedras, Park Gardens, San Juan, Puerto Rico church of Christ, called to request 5,000 copies of two different tracts, with local information printed on each. We have already shipped those to her. She said that brethren from that congregation and the one in Bayamón are working together in the distribution of tracts. Mondays, they

distribute in the very large Río Piedras area of metropolitan San Juan, and Tuesdays, in Bayamon. Lately, working in the center of Bayamon, they talked with a Pentecostal lady pastor who manifested, according to Amarillis, an open mind to understanding the gospel and the church more correctly.

Last year, both congregations conducted **“Open House” evangelism** in their respective meeting places. An informal, but well-organized activity to motivate non-members to attend, conducted on Saturdays. Results have been encouraging. Now, other congregations are also planning such an event.

Place not identified. April 11, 2019. *“Excellent information on Daniel and the four beasts. Thanks.”* Ana Cristina Azuola Quesada

Place not identified. April 8, 2019. *“I would like to obtain a copy of the text on how to preside over the Lord’s Supper, verses that can be read, etc.”* Ervin Martínez.

The entire work on these subjects is comprised of 16 chapters. Printed, about 165 letter-size pages.

Bogota, Colombia. April 8, 2019. *“Many, many thanks for your great service on the Internet.”* Sebastián Girado.

The context of this statement is that of the Directories (partial) of Spanish-speaking churches of Christ we maintain on editoriallapaz.org. A Directory for each country.

Place not identified. April 6, 2019. *“I am passionate about the teachings of Jesus, especially the subject of 1 Corinthians 3:1-25. Could you send me more information?”* Oscar Campos Brenes

We are happy to inform Oscar that we have a series of four studies on 1 Corinthians 3:5-15 entitled: *“Gold, Silver, Precious Stones; Wood, Hay and Stubble.”* Extensive enough, I would say, to be used as a subject for evangelists and any others involved in establishing, organizing and edifying congregations.

Place not identified. April 5, 2019. *“I like your Web site.”* Jesús

Place not identified. April 4, 2019. *“God bless you, brethren. Excellent answers to what the man Ruben set forth.”* Luis Montilla. Referrer: "<http://www.editoriallapaz.org/Ananias-Saulo-Pablo-imposicion-manos-Espiritu-Santo.html>"

The Referrer is to an exchange published April 3, 2019 between a man by the name of Ruben and myself. He affirmed that believers today receive the Holy Spirit as on the day of Pentecost, and that Paul received the supernatural gifts of the Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him. In a rather succinct way, I highlighted the fallacies of those positions. Ruben was on Part II of a study on *“The Gift of the Holy Spirit,”* when he wrote his e-mail, disagreeing with what he was reading.

Place not identified. April 3, 2019. *“Esteemed brother of the pilgrimage, I would like for you to know that you have helped me very much to know and understand the Church of Christ here on the planet. Many thanks for your labor. Your servant in Christ, Roberto.”* Roberto Orfeo
Referrer: "<http://www.editoriallapaz.org/declaracion.htm>"

The referrer is to: **“A Simple Declaration of Identity and Purpose,”** for the Internet site www.editoriallapaz.org. Whereby I identify my person and function as administrator of the site, namely, that of evangelist, and the undenominational nature of the “Church of Christ,” of which the site is but a work, having no incorporation or officials of its own. The “Declaration” is In Spanish only, for the present.

Equatorial Guinea. March 22, 2019. *“Brethren, the Lord’s peace be with you. I need to unite my work with your ministry so that Equatorial Guinea may form a part of this great program. Our country is Spanish-speaking.”* Zabulón Ebang Nguema

This is not the first e-mail we have received from Spanish-speaking Equatorial Guinea, on the western side of Africa, between Cameroon and Gabon, with a population of 1,360,000. We await Mr. Zabulón Ebang’s reply to see what he means by “uniting his work with our ministry.”

We did not have to wait long, as you may see by the following reply.

Equatorial Guinea. April 5, 2019. *“Esteemed faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, peace. Having read your response, I am very thankful. I am encouraged by your simply having responded to my correspondence. It is just as you say: Equatorial Guinea is the only country in Africa with Spanish as an official language. This always leads us to seek contacts with other Spanish-speaking countries. Here our doors are open to receive the pure gospel, for our greatest need is to win souls hoping for salvation. Therefore, Bro. Homero Shappley, from now on count the missionary work I am doing here as your own. We await your instructions, training, declaration of faith and other useful instruments to work efficiently.”*
Zabulón Ebang Ebang

I suggested to Zabulón that he read five basic documents, on editoriallapaz, setting forth God’s Plan of Salvation and basics on His Church, providing him links to the documents. Thereby, he should be able to determine how far he would be willing to go with regard to becoming one with us. As of this date (April 27, 2019), no further communication has been received from him. His written Spanish is rather poor, causing me to wonder just how well people of Equatorial Guinea understand the language. Two other languages are listed as being official languages of that country.

Place not identified. April 1, 2019. *“Very interesting study on spiritual gifts.”* Enedina Martínez

Place not identified. March 24, 2019. *“Very good material.”* Nélida

El Salvador. March 30, 2019. *“Hello. I am a priest, and I would like to become a part of your community. I am in El Salvador.”* Correo: fundacionmisioneramanosunidas@gmail.com. The address of this e-mail is: United Hands Missionary Foundation. No personal name is given. The context of the e-mail leaves me questioning the kind of “priest” the author may be.

Chilpancingo, Guerrero, México. March 28, 2019. Telephone conversations and E-mail. Ulises Bustos called to urgently request more tracts. The church there distributes tracts on the streets, in hospitals, in a community where brethren are carrying food to the very needy and giving them tracts, etc. *“The tracts are very useful and fruitful,”* stated Ulises. He requested quantities of 16 titles, with local dated printed on each. Arrangements have been made to ship them through Bro. Manuel Suchil, in Mission, TX, who will take them to his brother, a preacher, in Reynosa, México, and they will be sent from there to Chilpancingo for a cost of about \$5.00, per 38 pound box.

We have completed the printing of 19,000 tracts for Ulises. Now, will proceed to fold, pack and ship them.

At right, Ulises has given tracts to the people around him and is teaching them from the Scriptures.



Mission, Texas. March 28, 2019. Telephone conversation. Bro. Manuel Suchil is an evangelist in Mission, TX who often goes to Mexico. He is willing to receive boxes of materials for congregations in Mexico, take them across the border to Reynosa, where his brother is an evangelist, and they would be reshipped from there to evangelists and churches in Mexico. Manuel made the following interesting observation: ***“Once again making tracts available in quantities is waking up some congregations that had become somewhat lethargic.”***

This is, indeed, a noteworthy dividend I having resumed, here in South Florida, the production of substantial amounts of tracts. More than 1,400,000 since December, 2016.

Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico. Feb. 8, 2019. Excellent literature. We have distributed all we had and need more. The tract *“Negocio del pastorado -The Business of Pastoring”* has been very effective. This is what Fabián Puente Figueroa related in a telephone conversation. Ojinaga and area have a population of about 50,000. Brethren there can receive material in Presidio, Texas and take it across the border. Fabián sent us local data to be printed on 3,000 tracts, 1,000 each of three titles. The shipment has been made.

Place not identified. Feb. 6, 2019. Karla is very thankful for studies on **bad thoughts**. *“I want to thank you for sharing your knowledge by this means. I looked for a specific subject: Evil thoughts, and if these are, or are not, sin. I found a **very moving and clear explanation**. I understood it very well for its **clear and comforting language**. **The explanation made a great impact on me**. I was very confused because for a long time this problem caused me to feel guilty, but now I feel better. It is a struggle every day, but now with a different vision. I felt very bad for having bad thoughts against Deity, and think that, because I gave them so much attention, I became obsessed to the point of believing I had some kind of psychological disorder. The obsession of feeling guilty is what tormented me, and I continued having those thoughts obviously because I gave them all my attention, desiring not to have ever had them. Now I understand this is something completely normal in every human being. The simple act of thinking my thoughts were sins saddened me, and I don't know what hurt me more: That God saw them and was offended or that I might have an unfortunate eternity. However, now I realize it is something totally normal, and that it is not the Devil who puts those thoughts in my mind, nor do I have an evil spirit in my mind, but that it is because I myself have two kinds of knowledge: One of Good, and one of Evil. Many, many thanks. I am happy to have found this Page and be able to read its message. I keep a copy of the text so that I may read it when I need to! May God bless and keep you.”* Karla

Across the years, no small number of men and women, including young people, have asked for help with the kind of mental-spiritual confusion Karla writes about in her e-mail, and, in response, I have written at length on the subject, making available the responses and studies on [editoriallapaz](http://editoriallapaz.org). It is so good to know Karla has been enlightened and has resolved her inner conflict, apparently, to a high degree. Of course, this world is not Paradise, and we may expect the conflict between Good and Evil within us to continue, to some degree or another, until our days here come to an end.

I asked Karla for permission to publish her “evaluation,” and she was happy to grant it. It was published as follows, only in Spanish, which I have translated for you.

“Of Great Impact”
a writing on
“BAD THOUGHTS”



*“Of great [impact](#)” this writing on **Bad Thoughts**. “A moving and clear explanation. Its language is clear and comforting.” Karla*

“...this writing” is a reference to a reply I made to A. G, a believer in Christ who wrote: **“I do not understand what is happening to me.”** Reminds me of what the apostle Paul said: **“For what I am doing, I do not understand...”** The reply, about four pages long, is only in Spanish.

<http://www.editoriallapaz.org/Bien-Mal-carne-espiritu-alma-mente.html>

Piura, Sullana, Perú. Jan. 21, 2019. *“I am looking for a church where I can meet, convinced I am in the right place, so that my soul can rest from so much deceit. Please send me information on the establishment and history of the Christian church.”* Pedro Miguel Arrase Jiménez

Place not identified. Jan. 30, 2019. *"I like all the messages very much and want to continue studying all these subjects in the light of the Word. Many thanks, and please send materials for small children. May God continue blessing this beautiful work you are doing."* Susana Cárdenas López

Referring to Lesson 2 of *"The Young Jesus,"* Susana wrote: *"A very important subject for young people. I liked it a lot for the clarity of the material."*

Referrer: "http://www.editoriallapaz.org/clases_biblicas_guias_desglose.htm/jovenes-guias-Jesucristo-joven-2.html"

Place not identified. Jan. 30, 2019. *"Hello. I would like to prepare myself to be a Sunday school teacher. Is there some place I could study?"* Erykka Parrado. Referrer:

["http://www.editoriallapaz.org/maestras_del_bien.htm"](http://www.editoriallapaz.org/maestras_del_bien.htm) *"A Prepared, Active and Effective Christian Teacher"* is the Page Erykka was on when she sent the e-mail. Seven slides and text. Especially for women teachers.

Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico. Feb. 11, 2019. *"Esteemed Bro. Homero, I write to greet you in Christ and to tell you I have looked over the materials you provide. They are excellent resources. The tracts 'Tithes Were Abolished' and 'Pastors After Believers' Money' would be of great use because, frequently, when we knock on doors, people confuse us with sectarians, and it is necessary to show them we seek souls, not money. God bless you and give you grace. Sincerely, your brother, Fabián Puente Figueroa."*

Nicaragua. Feb. 5, 2019. *"Brethren, may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each and every one of you. My name is Jaime Román, of Nicaragua. I belong to the Baptist Church, of the Nicaraguan Convention. I am fully convinced with regard to the tithe. Today, more than ever, in my church they are weighing heavily on this matter, to the extreme that if a leader does not tithe, give regularly, plus special offerings, or carry out some activity putting the proceeds in the treasury of the church, they call him negligent, incompetent and unfaithful to the Lord. I have the good will and the desire to serve the Lord, but feel I cannot due to so many limitations or obstacles. I have read your material and think it right, above all, biblical. If you have congregations in Nicaragua, please inform me."*

Recently, an evangelist from Nicaragua visited the West Broward congregation where we attend, and he informed me there are now some 200 congregations in Nicaragua.

The following entry was sent as a "Brief Report" to those on our E-mail list for such reports.

Additional perspectives and evaluations

Barinas, Venezuela and Aruba

Feb. 10, 2019

Evangelist **Hjalmar Paredes** writes about the **tracts being sent to Venezuela.**

He makes yearly trips to **ARUBA**, eighteen miles off the coast of Venezuela, and request we send tracts to brethren there.

He has received materials from us over a period of 26 years, and learns more about us via a whatsapp exchange with Antonio.

I have his side of that exchange and will translate portions of it.

First, some **background information.** Rita, our daughter Sharon Laretta (she was two years old when we went to Aruba) and I lived **two years and nine months in Aruba**, from 1962 to 1965. We worked with the English-speaking congregation in **San Nicolas**, and **began evangelistic work among the native (Indian), Papiamento-speaking population** of approximately 50,000, **baptizing the first of them to become members of the church.** We began Papiamento-speaking services in **Oranjestad**, capitol of the island. At that time, Aruba was one of the six Caribbean islands making up the Netherlands Antilles. The islands became

independent in later years. There are now **three congregations in Aruba**: one Spanish-speaking, one Papiamento-speaking and one English-speaking.

Hjalmar writes to Antonio:

“For the month of September (2019), the Holy Spirit, the church in Aruba and I are planning a gospel meeting. I wanted to consult you about the possibility of sending tracts to Aruba, so that we could use such good material in support of the meeting.

“Many thanks for the efforts you are making to send material of an evangelistic and edifying kind to Venezuela.

“I have been in the faith for 26 years, and have known of the work of the church in Bayamon (Puerto Rico) and of Editorial La Paz. I, personally, admire the work of your father (that’s me, Dewayne) and, I think, of your uncle (A mistaken conception. No “uncle” involved in the work. Over the years, I have used variations of my name, resulting in some confusion about who and how many have been involved in the work.) What you (Antonio) do, recording the songs in different voices and editing them, is a tremendous work, as is that of your father. I still have cassettes that were sent to me. Two or three albums, one being ‘*Good Administrators of the Multiform Grace of God*,’ and a tract I always remember is ‘*José’s Search for the Church*.’ For sure, I would be very pleased to have it again. I request material for Aruba because I know it and am sure it would be very helpful.

“Bro. Antonio, I give glory to God for your excellent work. What you do with the hymns is incredible. I am always making these comments to brethren when we listen to them. I can only imagine how much work was involved in editing them and making them available. Wow! I congratulate you.

“What you do for the Kingdom is admirable. Someday, I would like to see the print shop and all the work that goes on.

“Your father must have known Tony Semeleer, the first Aruban to become a Christian. (Not only did I know him; I had the honor of baptizing him! About 4 months after we arrived in Aruba. And he became one of the finest Christians I have ever known. Our son, Antonio, is named after Antonio Semeleer.)

As the dialogue progressed, Antonio provided Hjalmar with more information about the work we do, and his response was:

“Brother, if I have appreciated the work of Editorial La Paz thus far, now that I know more about it I will have an even greater appreciation for it. Both of you are a great example for all of us. Brother, you all have a lot of fruit in your account, believe me. **I am one of them.**

Hjalmar continues:

“The address where they can receive material in Aruba is the house of Sira Semeleer, daughter of Antonio Semeleer. Her husband is Aparicio Kelly Kamay, at 33C, Noord, Aruba. (The last name “Kelly” brings back memories, for some of the Kelly family were among the first Aruban converts. Several months after we were established in Puerto Rico, I made a trip to Aruba, at the request of the family, to perform the wedding ceremony for a daughter.)

“My desire this year is to be of much help to the churches in Aruba. They speak both Papiamento and Spanish. I have had the blessing of knowing them for 15 years. The one in Oranjestad is Spanish-speaking. The one in Tamarijn, Papiamento-speaking. And, the one in San Nicolas, English-speaking.”

NOTES. We were unsuccessful in finding an evangelist who would replace us in Aruba when we left in August, 1965. Later, through the years, some did go, at least one to live there with his family for a few years. In case you might wonder why we did leave, from the beginning it was agreed we would stay less than 3 years, for, if we remained more than 3 years, the Dutch government would have required the church to deposit a very large sum of money to insure we would have income.

Hjalmar Paredes appears in a previous report. He is one of two evangelists for a 600 member congregation in Barinas, Venezuela. That church continues to receive part of the food, clothes and literature being sent to brethren in Venezuela by the West Broward Church of Christ, Plantation, Florida.

I consider myself to have been so tremendously blessed to be a part of the work of the Lord in Aruba, Puerto Rico and now, here, while living in south Florida. To Him be all the Honor, for His is the Power and Glory.

Nicaragua. Nov. 11, 2018. An evangelist by the name of Melvin called, asking if we continue to produce **cassettes**. He has four cassette players that work and listens to cassettes we sent him many years ago. In particular, he mentioned the set on **Ephesians**: 42 messages, about 28 minutes each, on 21 cassettes, describing them as *“beautiful.”* Adding that cassettes are the *“best medium”* for studying. We have not produced cassettes for years. I do have the originals of many we prepared, plus copies of the four albums we produced: 3 albums of 16 cassettes each and 1 of 21 cassettes. Working at times with preachers in Puerto Rico, we recorded hundreds of messages in a dialogue format for radio programs for which I was responsible over about 35 years.

Place not identified. Dec. 13, 2018. *“Your subjects are very good. How much does it cost to receive copies?”* Donaldo Lozano Quispe

Place not identified. Dec. 12, 2018. *“I feel very grateful for this information. Although I do not agree with some ideas, there are many I did not know, and they help me in my own investigations. I see that you truly strive to be objective and acknowledge your great work.”* Jesús Bretado

Torreón, Coahuila, México. Dec. 05, 2018. *“The commentary on the first trumpet of Revelation was very interesting to me, and very profound, geologically. I would like for you to send me the PDF of all the Commentary on Revelation, and commentaries you may have on other books. Many thanks. Efraín, of Torreón, Coahuila, México.”*



Door to door teaching and distribution of tracts in Venezuela. May, 2019.

Paper for Printing

Below are the two types of paper we are now purchasing at a new Costco very near where Antonio lives. At the lowest cost we have found in more than a year.



Georgia Pacific, made in USA. Letter size.

22 pound. 96 bright.

\$21.15 for 2,500 sheets, tax included.

\$105.75 buys 12,500 sheets.

Sufficient to print 25,000 of the one-fold, smaller tracts, or 12,500 of the larger tracts.



24 pound. 96 bright.

\$7.41 for 850 sheets, tax included.

\$88.92 for 12 packs of 850 sheets. That is, 10,200 sheets.

If you, or your congregation, **could help supply paper for tracts, booklets and books**, please send your contribution to:

Cairo Church of Christ
Spanish Evangelism c/o Lynda Riddick
2938 Chestnut Bluff Maury C Rd, Friendship, TN 38034

Internet Evangelism and Edification

Data for 2018, through Dec. 31

The following data was sent Jan. 24, 2019 as a “**Brief Report**” to E-mail recipients of these reports.

It is included here to complete the Record in “**Reports for the Year 2018.**”

2018 set a record for the number of visits yearly registered to the sites we maintain. The total for the year was	1,962,126
The Daily Average of visits for 2018 was	5,376
The Total number of documents accessed by visitors was	2,756,879
The Grand Total of visits from Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2018 is.....	19,616,243
The Grand Total of documents accessed for the same period is	35,895,084



Data for January 1 – April 30, 2019

The total number of visits for January 1 – April 30, 2019, is.....	592,552
The daily average for the same period (120 days) is.....	4,938
The total number of documents opened by visitors for this period is	843,416
For Antonio’s Internet site of 172 hymns , the number of visits is	31,761
The number of hymns accessed is	42,887
For eleven video studies on Ephesians recorded from June through September of 2016, ...the total number of views on YouTube through May 2, 2019 was	21,224

Observations. We noticed, beginning Oct. 1, 2018, that Google had changed parameters for the reporting of data, and an unusual drop in visits, particularly to editoriallapaz, the main site, was registered for that and subsequent months. Probably due, as Antonio explained to me, to changes also made by Google in the logarithms used to direct inquires to certain Internet Sites and individual Pages. We were on tract to surpass more than two million visits in 2018 had that drop not occurred. In Europe, Google has been fined about six billion euros for the manipulation of search engine results, etc. Other circumstances that do, undoubtedly, negatively impact the number of visitors, are: devastating hurricanes, like Maria, in Puerto Rico, in 2017, and those hitting other Spanish-speaking areas. Also, social-political revolutions, like the ones in Venezuela, Central American countries and Mexico. Despite those factors, an uptick in the number of visits has been

taking place beginning in March of this year, and for the first 19 days of May the daily average for editoriallyapaz alone is 5,420. For Monday, May 20, 6,600 visits were registered to editoriallyapaz.

Grand Totals from January 1, 2003 through April 30, 2019

The **Grand Total** of visits is20,208,795

The **Grand Total** of documents opened for the same period is36,718,503

Detailed monthly data is available at www.editoriallyapaz.org/stats.

Production in South Florida of Printed and Audio Materials

As of **May 20, 2019**, we have produced, in **South Florida**... since Dec. 15, 2016...

Tracts 1,468,297

Booklets2,398

Books498

Compact Disks.....1,819

Total of all materials produced in South Florida facilities 1,472,992

Totals on Tracts

Tracts printed in **South Florida** 1,468,297

Tracts printed in **Puerto Rico**23,681,155

Total tracts printed25,149,452

Grand Totals of the Following Materials produced in Puerto Rico and South Florida

Tracts25,149,452

Booklets428,650

Books34,941

Bible Course Lessons342,350

Compact Disks.....7,120

Cassettes325,477

Grand Total26,287,990

Grand Total of all evangelistic and edification instruments provided

Internet documents opened36,718,503

Tracts, booklets, books, Bible course lessons, compact disks and cassettes26,287,990

Grand Total63,006,493

Articles and Studies Developed Since January 1, 2019

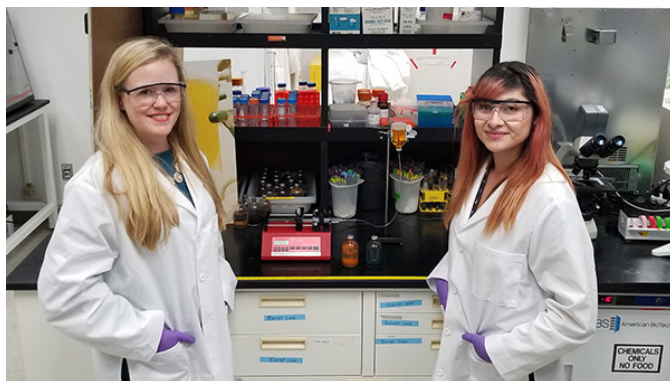
Desiring not to lengthen this report any more, I opt to highlight just one, of many.

When I read the Fox News article **“NASA was able to recreate the origins of life and the results are shocking,”** by Chris Ciaccia, published Feb. 26, 2019, I felt strongly motivated to write an analysis. I first wrote in Spanish, and then translated the analysis to English. Both versions are available on editoriallyapaz.org. For anyone interested in this kind of subject matter, following is the English version of the article and an analysis after each portion selected for rebuttal.

**NASA was able to recreate
the origins of life and the results
are shocking**

By Chris Ciaccia | Fox News

February 26, 2019



Laurie Barge, left, and Erika Flores, NASA astrobiologists, in the laboratory where, so they assure humanity, they have created in laboratory beakers conditions similar to those they **suppose** existed near fumaroles, which they **suppose** formed in the primordial sea that they **suppose** existed 4 billion years ago, the number of years they **assume** the Earth to have from its early phase to the present. There is no absolute proof any of these **four suppositions** are anything but that.

Photograph and text added by HDS

Chris Ciaccia writes...

*“A new **NASA** study has recreated the origins of life, building the ocean's floors from 4 billion years ago as humanity attempts to understand how life started on Earth and where else it might be found.*

Commentary by Homer Dewayne Shappley

This sentence contains **patent contradictions**. If humanity still *“attempts to understand how life started on Earth,”* with what common sense or logic can it be categorically affirmed, as a fact, that *“A new NASA study has recreated the origins of life?”* *“...attempts to understand”* and *“has recreated the origins of life”* constitute, unquestionably, an **obvious contradiction**. Humanity does not yet understand, according to Mr. Ciaccia, *“how life started on Earth.”* Thus, neither NASA, nor the writer Chris Ciaccia nor any other human being can assert that *“the origins of life”* have been recreated.

Such twisted information and false logic easily deceive the incautious, the credulous or anyone lacking ample knowledge of these subjects, but NOT the clear mind, duly educated and strictly impartial.

Neither NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the writer Chris Ciaccia, nor any other entity or human being has the right to **speak on behalf of all “humanity.”** As if all humans, without exception, continue attempting to understand how life began on planet Earth.

As a matter of fact, the immense majority of humans attribute the origin of life to a Super Intelligent Creator, repudiating the speculative hypotheses of Darwinists evolutionists, atheists, secularists and humanists of all kinds.

Discarding superstitions and distorted beliefs of people with little or no academical preparation, the **force of serious arguments** presented by multitudes of **thoughtful, highly educated humans** convinced of the existence of that Super Powerful Being are not minimized or ridiculed by impartial minds.

“The study, conducted by astrobiologists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and published in [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), looks at how life began in hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor.

Commentary by HDS

I would suppose that to be a real “astrobiologist” it would be necessary to go to at least one star and identify accurately its components and their interactions, or, not being able to make such a trip, in some way acquire those components, examining them with true scientific rigor. Pretend to have carefully and exactly examined them by means of electromagnetic rays, radio astronomy, telescopic observations, etc., would not satisfy the exigencies of rigorous science.

Biology is the science of studying **live beings**. Do live beings inhabit stars themselves? Logically, it would be necessary for a specialist to at least find such beings before adjudicating to himself, or herself, the mighty high-sounding title of “astrobiologist.” Until then, we would classify the title as somewhat **“fantastical.”**

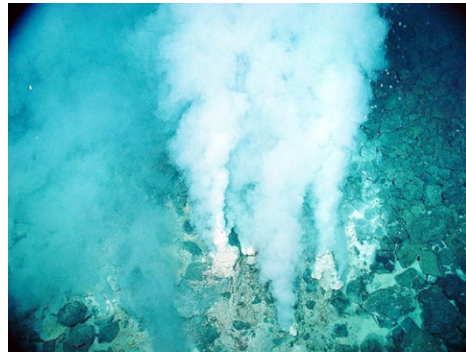
The clause **“...looks at how life began,”** is, effectively, a plain, bald assertion that life did, in fact, begin *“in hydrothermal vents on the ocean floor.”* An aggravating lack of overwhelming proof to that effect should obligate honest scientists and writers to express themselves with more precision and reservation. At least to add the words **“might have.”** The clause would then read: **“...looks at how life MIGHT HAVE BEGUN.”**

“Understanding how far you can go with just organics and minerals before you have an actual cell is really important for understanding what types of environments life could emerge from,” said Laurie Barge, the lead

investigator, in a statement. "Also, investigating how things like the atmosphere, the ocean and the minerals in the vents all impact this can help you understand how likely this is to have occurred on another planet."

Commentary

"...before you have an actual cell." Dear Laurie Barge, you and your co-religionists, mix organics and minerals in a beaker and heat them to effect changes, but, **never, never, have you been able, to date, to produce even one "actual cell!"** That is, a cell that is alive. **A LIVING CELL!** Why don't you wait until you have done it before writing scientific papers and making grandiose declarations about "recreating the origins of life?" Then, there would be no cause for doubts, allegations of fraud, clever manipulations of elements, etc.



Fumaroles on the ocean floor

Did life on planet Earth begin near fumaroles?

Have NASA astrobiologists recreated the origins of life in laboratory beakers?

"Barge and her team were able to recreate the seafloor by filling beakers with mixtures that were similar to the primordial ocean, including water, minerals and ammonia and pyruvate that are generally located near hydrothermal vents. The mixture was heated to 158 degrees Fahrenheit, the oxygen was removed and they added iron hydroxide, or 'green rust,' which was abundant in the early days of the planet.

"The green rust reacted with the traces of oxygen that were left, which produced the amino acid alanine and the alpha hydroxy acid lactate. Some researchers believe these could combine (like Legos) and create further complex molecules which could then be a precursor to life.

Commentary

That is, **not even the slightest bit of LIFE is produced in these experiments!**

Experiments based on **mountains of suppositions.**

Recreate, in small laboratory beakers, conditions on the primordial ocean floor, including precise mixtures of elements, temperatures, depths, water pressures, currents, gravitational pressures, atmospheric conditions and who knows how many more relevant parameters?

Take notice, Mr. Ciaccia, that we added some parameters you did not mention, but which are surely relevant.

That the researchers themselves should set **their own parameters** based on a **plethora of hypotheses**? Because no intelligent being was present there four billion years ago to register exactly all relevant parameters precisely as they existed. Seems tremendously presumptuous to me, and far from truly scientific.

One must have stupendous faith in pure hypotheses to spend so much time and resources on such experiments, the sensible, worthwhile practicality of which could reasonably be questioned, especially in view of the critical, multiple, many-faceted crises impacting masses of real, live humans who inhabit a vibrant, livable planet called Earth literally teeming with untold billions of life forms.

Who verified that hot fumaroles, with a concoction of water, minerals and acids that measured precisely 157 degrees Fahrenheit, existed on the bed of the primordial sea? At what depth were they found?

Who verified that there was abundant “*green rust*” around such fumaroles or submarine valves?

In the beakers, “*The green rust reacted with the traces of oxygen that were left, which produced the amino acid alanine and the alpha hydroxy acid lactate.*” So? The crux of the matter is to prove that the experiments carried out today in laboratory beakers **really and truly replicated exactly parallel conditions on the ocean floor 4 billion years ago.**

A challenge much greater by far would be to absolutely prove that such an ocean existed in such a dimension of time.

“Some researchers **BELIEVE...**” That is, **they have not proven anything of what so many of them and their sympathizers present as FACTS! An unpardonable sin in the kingdom of the exact sciences. A huge ERROR that induces masses of youth and adults to receive as REALITIES mere postulations resting on hypotheses by the barrel full.**

“...complex molecules which could then be a precursor to life.” **Astrobiologists HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CREATE A SINGLE ONE!** The combination of their acids, like Legos, **HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE!**

“We’ve shown that in geological conditions similar to early Earth, and maybe to other planets, we can form amino acids and alpha hydroxy acids from a simple reaction under mild conditions that would have existed on the seafloor,” Barge added in the statement.

Commentary

Again, **numerous suppositions.**

What were the **precise geological conditions** of Earth in its early stage? Who or what power was there to verify those **exact conditions**? “**Similar**” is a **relative term**. Geological conditions **just like** those on early Earth recreated in a beaker today. Can you accomplish that, Laurie Barge?

The most rudimentary **LIVE CELL** known is extraordinarily complicated. Logically, its' supposed appearance as a result of the fortuitous combination of **inert elements** would presuppose **phenomenally precise and complex parameters**. To this day, scientists have not been able to produce a single, original, fully alive cell from totally inert elements or chemicals.

Who has proven that *"mild conditions... would have existed on the seafloor"* of *"the early Earth?"* Another mere supposition. Who established that *"mild conditions... would have existed?"* *"...mild,"* and not any other state. Furthermore, and of greater importance: The existence of such an Earth 4 billion years ago is a supposition based on speculations of inexact sciences.

In synthesis, the **only thing** Barge and her team were able to **demonstrate** is that they could cause two specific acids to form in laboratory beakers, recipients that, due to their limitations in size, fragility and other factors, never could make possible the replication of absolutely exact conditions on any area of the ocean floor, whether of the present or of remotely distant times. Let it be clearly noted: **Two acids**, no more, which **DID NOT UNITE** to form other elements or components, much less a **LIVE CELL**.

Underscoring for emphasis: This is the **only thing** Barge and her team **demonstrated**. Despite that fact, Chris Ciaccio dares begin his article with the preposterous affirmation: **"A new NASA study has recreated the origins of life..."** A **GREAT LIE!** An **ENORMOUS DECEIT!** And, as he believes it, so also may a great number of his readers, particularly those for whom the inclusion of **"NASA"** in the very false declaration is the magic acronym that dispels all doubt.

"While it's important to note NASA has not created life itself in the experiment, it does raise the possibility that the hydrothermal vents could appear elsewhere in the universe and be a building block for life."

Commentary

"While it's important to note NASA has NOT CREATED LIFE ITSELF in the experiment..." Mr. Ciaccio, **this is HUGELY IMPORTANT!** You should have said this at the beginning instead of deceiving the public with your very erroneous and irresponsible declaration **"A new NASA study has recreated the origins of life..."**

"If we have these hydrothermal vents here on Earth, possibly similar reactions could occur on other planets," said JPL's Erika Flores, co-author of the new study.

Commentary

Phraseology that expresses another speculation. Erika Flores should have said: *"If we have these hydrothermal vents here on Earth, then **there might be some on other planets where they might produce similar reactions.**"*

"We don't have concrete evidence of life elsewhere yet," said Barge. "But understanding the conditions that are required for life's origin can help narrow down the places that we think life could exist."

"The implications of the research are vast, especially as new celestial bodies are discovered, with some having the components to host life."

Commentary

Not only do they lack “*concrete evidence of life elsewhere*,” neither do they know, as a scientific certainty, the “*conditions that are required for life's origin*,” according to the totally materialistic parameters of Darwinian evolution theses. The conditions they do establish are ones they themselves have conceived based on mere hypotheses.

By saying that some of the newly discovered celestial bodies have “***the components to host life***” they provide another classic example of presenting as fact that which is mere supposition. “...*having the components to host life*” is a clear affirmation that, yes, those components do absolutely exist and they absolutely can host life. Are those two absolutes absolutely verified beyond any doubt? Perhaps Barge should have said: “...*with some possibly having components that might host life*.”

“In 2018, researchers discovered that Saturn’s moon, Enceladus, has the ‘building blocks for life,’ after complex organic molecules were found on the natural satellite.

Commentary

Naturally, the impartial mind, a little skeptical, like mine, would ask: What are the absolutely unquestionable evidences that support such a conclusion? I need reliable, irrefutable evidences to accept that those “*building blocks for life*” really do exist on Enceladus in the form of “***complex organic molecules***” **absolutely proven to exist there**; not mere speculations of **inexact sciences**.

How **inexact** some sciences, such as astronomy, can be is highlighted in the extensive article in www.wikipedia.org on the moon **Enceladus**, in the sections on “Potential habitability” and “Hydrothermal vents.” Don’t miss the statement below on “*the tree of life on Earth, the birthplace of all life that is known to exist*.”

Following are relevant excerpts from the article. We highlight in bold speculative expressions in the article. How many there are in a short space is impressive.

This indicates that **hydrothermal activity**—an energy source—**may be at work** in Enceladus's subsurface ocean. ^{[134][137]}

[Clarification: The “subsurface ocean,” if, indeed, it does exist, is not visible on the surface of Enceladus, which is mostly covered by ice, according to the Wikipedia article. HDS]

Molecular hydrogen (H₂), a geochemical source of energy that can be metabolized by methanogen microbes to provide energy for life, **could be present if**, as models **suggest**, Enceladus's salty ocean has an alkaline pH from serpentinization of chondritic rock. ^{[84][85][86]}

The presence of ample hydrogen in Enceladus's ocean means that **microbes – if any exist there –** could use it to obtain energy by combining the hydrogen with carbon dioxide dissolved in the water. The chemical reaction is known as “methanogenesis” because it produces methane as a byproduct, and is at the root of **the tree of life on Earth, the birthplace of all life that is known to exist**.

On April 13, 2017, NASA announced the discovery of **possible hydrothermal activity** on Enceladus' sub-surface ocean floor. It has been **speculated** that such activity **could be** a potential oasis of habitability. ^{[147][148][149]}

The following statement is found in the article Observation Astronomy, in www.wikipedia.org.

As a science, the study of astronomy is somewhat hindered in that direct experiments with the properties of the distant universe are not possible.

Let us keep in mind that even if “*building blocks for life*” do exist on other celestial bodies in the form of complex organic molecules, but those blocks **never do come together to produce true, living organisms**, then their presence would not necessarily alter the view that true living organisms are found only on planet Earth.

“A recently discovered exoplanet that orbits Barnard’s Star – known as Barnard b – could have the potential for extraterrestrial life if water exists somewhere on the planet. That’s due to the possibility of geothermal heating, which could create an ocean for primitive life.”

Commentary

“...could have... if water exists... the possibility of... could create...” **WOW!** Classic speculations of astrobiologists. One would almost dare to ask: Does that exoplanet Barnard b really exist? Not that I doubt it; just to call attention to the **speculation factor** that characterizes so many affirmations, expositions and postulations not only of astrobiologists but of the immense majority of scientists, engineers, philosophers and writers who are Darwinian evolutionists. Blinded, it could be said, by their intransigent convictions, they do not even perceive, so it appears, that they frequently present as facts, including Darwinian evolution itself, matters which belong in the categories of speculations, hypothesis or purely fantastical projections.

We could hope to find in them, professionals that they are, more objectivity, honesty, exactness, sound logic, transparency and the humility of minds open to continual learning.

By the way, I personally do not find anything “**shocking**” in the “**results**” of the study carried out by employees of NASA! **What does profoundly shock me is the subtle, clever manner of transmitting those “results.”** For I do not doubt many readers take them as indubitable proof of the discovery of life itself in mixtures prepared today in laboratory beakers. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Sincerely, Homer Dewayne Shappley

Hydrothermal vent. www.wikipedia.org

A **hydrothermal vent** is a fissure on the seafloor from which geothermally heated water issues. Hydrothermal vents are commonly found near volcanically active places, areas where tectonic plates are moving apart at spreading centers, ocean basins, and hotspots.^[1] Hydrothermal deposits are rocks and mineral ore deposits formed by the action of hydrothermal vents.

Hydrothermal vents exist because the earth is both geologically active and has large amounts of water on its surface and within its crust. Under the sea, hydrothermal vents may form features called **black smokers** or **white smokers**. Relative to the majority of the deep sea, the areas around submarine hydrothermal vents are biologically more productive, often hosting complex communities fueled by the chemicals dissolved in the vent fluids. Chemosynthetic bacteria and archaea form the base of the food chain, supporting diverse organisms, including giant tube worms, clams, limpets and shrimp. Active hydrothermal vents are believed to exist on Jupiter’s moon Europa, and Saturn’s moon Enceladus,^{[2][3]} and it is speculated that ancient hydrothermal vents once existed on Mars.^{[1][4]}

In contrast to the approximately 2 °C (36 °F) ambient water temperature at these depths, water emerges from these vents at temperatures ranging from 60 °C (140 °F)^[5] up to as high as 464 °C (867 °F).^{[6][7]} Due to the high hydrostatic pressure at these depths, water may exist in either its liquid form or as a supercritical fluid at such temperatures.