



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.
REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS
 by
RevC
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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!
COLOMBIA



In Ecuador back in 2013, missionary Don Wolfram introduced me to Pastor Jose Herrera who was moving his family to Colombia. Pastor Jose's desire was to pioneer a church with the possibility of eventually establishing a Bible school to train pastors and Christian leaders. At that time, we discussed using the CTC program which Don was using in the Ecuadorian Amazon. A few months ago, I learned that Don had helped Pastor Herrera raise up the frame of a building that could be used as a church and training center location. When I realized they were nearing the start of a new CTC program, I contacted Don to offer my assistance in teaching during the opening session. They delayed the start until I returned from Africa, caught up on ministry responsibilities, and spent some time with my family before heading out again.

Don and I met early on a Sunday morning to travel together out of Tampa, through Miami, to Cartagena, Colombia. We then made a four-hour journey in a compact car to a small hotel in Sincelejo, arriving late Sunday night. It was near the end of the dry season and everything was as brown and lifeless as it could possibly get. Much of the ground has a clay-like consistency and thus was hard as a rock and cracked from baking in the hot sun. The only salvation throughout the week was that for most of the day, there was a bit of a breeze that offered some relief.



Monday morning, we traveled outside of Sincelejo down the side of a moun-

tain to a location that was directly across the dirt road from an above ground cemetery. The frame of a building with a metal roof was in place on land that had been purchased there. It was a large facility with a small apartment space, about 700 square feet, for the Pastor's family. The building sat on the down slope of a hill, providing the space for the apartment under the platform area. The almost completed apartment had an



overhang with a thatch roof built out from the front entrance to the apartment which would allow for hammocks and a patio area. Much of the work had been done by our students. The walls and floor of the structure will be added by the church congregation as their part in having a church of their own.

The trip from our hotel in Sincelejo to the CTC location was about a 20-minute ride in a small yellow taxi, slightly larger than an older version of the Volkswagen Beetle. The streets do not seem to have been laid out with any systematic plan, as each day the drivers seem to find another route in either direction. The only constant was that on the morning trip down the mountain, we would pass a small burro climbing up the mountain carrying a large man and large containers of some liquid strapped to each side.



I felt great compassion for the little burro! His load was great and the one-mile climb steep, presenting a challenge even for the motorcycles and the small taxis that struggled near the top of the climb. How was this small burro able to conquer such a mountainous hardship day after day? One step at a time!

There were somewhere between 18 and 24 students at any given time throughout the week. As this was the first training center in the area, some were checking it out while others had made commitments after the first day of class. We paused a couple of days





into the classes to take this photo, which included the two ladies who were cooking for the

group and two other Pastors who Don was training to

help with the teaching after I left. Pictured here are Pastor Jose Herrera (our host), Don Wolfram (our overseer), me, and Pastor Guillermo Rodriguez (who is planning to plant a new church and may help teach in the future).



There were a couple other pastors in the group who had come for the training, along with a few younger students that seemed very hungry to learn. Also, in attendance were two young couples with babies, two older couples, and several women who were already serving in the church and just wanted to learn more to expand their opportunities to serve. One husband and wife team with limited education, unable to take notes even with an outline that was provided to the students, remained faithful all week to be in class and learn what they could. We also had an unusual member of our class, the burro that belonged to Francisco. It was amazing how he would bray at just a time which seemed to confirm or agree with what was being said. I walked back with Francisco to meet the nine-year-old burro. When I asked Francisco in Spanish what the name of the burro was, he replied with a somewhat puzzled look on his face, "**Burro.**"!



I was up each morning by 5:30 or before so I could take a shower (no hot water here) which woke every inch of my body upon first contact. I could say it was refreshing, but that might imply that I enjoyed it which is simply not the truth. But it did wake me up

and help me to enter my time of prayer before saying good morning to Vicky via "WhatsApp," then taking the taxi to the school.

I am not normally a coffee drinker; it has probably been close to 30 years since I have even had a sip from a cup of coffee. However, with the late nights preparing for the next day of teaching and the early rising, I must admit I began to look forward to arriving at school and being handed a cup of Colombian coffee. It was only about a half cup but very strong and yet sweet. A couple of those did a lot to help me keep going. One other plus was the empanadas that the ladies made. They were made from



a corn-type meal, hand formed into a half circle, with some ground up



meat and special seasoning, then deep fried over an open flame. Oh my, were they tasty!



At the church's mid-week evening service, I was encouraged to see our students in attendance as well as several others who comprised this growing fellowship. Musical instruments were simple, yet the praise and worship time was very good.

Don and I both felt it was a great start to the new CTC in Columbia with a promising group of students. Please pray for them!

You are in my prayers, asking God to release blessing on you and your family. Please continue to stand with us and the projects. We earnestly need your help! Myanmar CTC **\$20K**; Spanish online **\$10K**; CTC online in Chidziwitso **\$10K**; Furnishings for 5 CTC locations Malawi and Mozambique **new balance \$2000**; **Church for Francis \$10K**; Bibles for Pastors in Malawi box of 10 for **\$120**; **ONE \$52,000 GIFT DOES IT ALL!** **TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

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