



Dear Brethern in Christ,

June, 2017

Hello from Aruba! We hope that each of you find yourselves blessed in the center of the Lord's will and work as you read this. We are really late on our report and have much to share with you! We have learned that in every ministry there are times of sowing, watering, cultivating, and reaping as the Scriptures teach us. There are sad times, lonely times, quiet times, victorious times, and joyful times; each individual time having its lesson and purpose in the cycle of ministry. At this time we have been seeing a special time of blessings and harvest that can only be explained by the working of God! By the Lord's grace and mercy we have seen dozens of visitors in our services at Berea, several professions of salvation, tremendous Bible / Discipleship lessons, and a growth in many of our people that is so encouraging to see!

This last week we celebrated two years since we started Iglesia Bautista Berea (*Berea Baptist Church*). Pastor Jim Bickel of Bethel Baptist Fellowship in Brooklyn, New York came and preached for us on the theme of "Strengthening the Foundation." He brought four great messages that helped us to refocus our eyes and faith on Jesus and challenged us to live in closer daily communion with the Lord. Among the many visitors was a practicing Buddhist who had never been in a Christian service! The picture above is the adults and young people on the last morning; we had 101 people at church for the closing! We praise the Lord for what He has done and is doing in Berea here in Aruba! After the anniversary this week we set up 3 new weekly Bible studies with new people and have many house calls to make over the next few weeks. Please pray with us, and for us, as we are in desperate need of a bigger church building, and also for wisdom to work with these people as we try to genuinely pour ourselves into them and point them to Christ.



Mothers Day

On Mother's Day we were blessed to have over 40 mothers present! We were able to present the Gospel clearly and made many new contacts.



Fathers Day

For Father's Day we had a special service just for men, and although many of our regular men could not come due to work. we did have 27- 10 of which were first time visitors! We taught much on the value of a true man of God and were able to present a clear Gospel plan to the new visitors.



Preaching trip to Mexico!

During the last ten days of May, Matt got to go back to Mexico! One of his nephews asked him to preach at his wedding, and while there he visited three other churches. One of the highlights of the trip was the privilege of leading an 86 year old man to the Lord! Praise God!



One of the highlights of the last month is that our three interns have arrived (pictured above with the family). **Kevin** from PA arrived in May, and **Laura** and **Lorena** from Mexico arrived in early June. They have already helped out in so many ways, and we look forward to the rest of the summer and the ministry opportunities; such as **VBS**, **youth camp**, and **children's camp** with their help. Praise the Lord for willing servants of the Lord, and may He lift up more laborers for His harvest!

We need the Lord's help and power, and we need your shoulder to lean on as we serve in this high and awesome calling that He has placed on our lives! Also, thanks to each of you that have written a note or called; it means a lot to us to know that we are more than a name on a prayer card for you. We pray for you often also. *Pray for us, really and truly, please pray for us... we cannot do this alone!* Thanks for making this ministry a part of your outreach with the Gospel. *We are excited about what the Lord is doing in Aruba, and we hope you are excited too, because you are a part of it!* There is much more to say and we could fill up many pages with pictures and stories from the last two months, but we know that your time, as ours, is limited. Thank you so much for reading this update, and for praying, and giving so faithfully over the months and years.

Yours Ambassadors to Aruba,
The Shields
Daniel 4:2