

# Sharing The Vision

Jim and Teresa White, serving on the island of Hispaniola  
FALL UPDATE, 2021

## GREAT NEWS!!!

It is only by God's grace that we can accomplish that which He has called us to do! We have answered the call to go, for His glory and to serve others. For over 25 years, STV has been *sharing* the good news of the Gospel to see lost souls saved, *sharing* His light and love to bring hope to the hopeless, *sharing* His life-giving and transforming Word to make disciples... *SHARING THE VISION!*

*Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*



The creek that runs through Hacienda Esperanza did not have enough water to hold baptisms. So, we improvised! Seven people were baptized in the last quarter of 2020, and two were baptized in the 1st quarter of 2021. Praise God!





## International Christian Church

ICC is now meeting in the homes of different church members. The church voted to leave our building at the end of 2020, and use the funds we were spending for rent to help the many struggling due to the

hardships caused by the Covid pandemic. We meet for a month at each home holding services on Sundays, providing members evangelistic opportunities in their own communities, inviting their family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to hear GOOD NEWS! This allows people to encounter Jesus, many who would not normally be willing to attend a church service in a typical church setting full of strangers. Our goal is to establish smaller "churches" in neighborhoods where our evangelistic efforts are bearing fruit. In May, a woman gave her heart to the Lord and was healed! She is now a new member, and is growing in the Lord! In June, ICC was able to minister to a neighbor who lost her husband due to a terminal illness, leaving her to raise their teen children alone. We were able to visit her in her home the week after his death, to pray for her and her family. The following two Sundays, she and her extended family came to ICC services! It has been encouraging to see our members opening up their homes, amid Covid restrictions and other obstacles, making efforts to reach their own communities for Christ! The required masks, curfews, and other regulations have not hindered God's work, and we are honored to walk with ICC as they are *SHARING THE VISION* to reach their own "world". This is GREAT NEWS!



*"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30*

## GREATER OPPORTUNITIES!!!

### GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET NEEDS:

STV Teams partner with us to purchase food staples and supplies for the widows in our surrounding communities of San Jose Adentro and Mocan. These sweet ladies receive us into their humble homes with such love and gratitude, always wanting us to sit and visit, and share a "cafecito". They tell us stories about their lives and families, and let us pray with them. We leave them with a care box and a hug, and they send us away with hearts full of joy!

*James 1:27 "Pure and undefiled religion before God is this: to visit the orphans and widows in their time of need..."*





## GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER IN MINISTRY:

STV usually hosts 5-7 short-term mission teams each year. The challenges of Covid in 2020 and 2021 have changed traveling abroad drastically. Many people are not willing to take foreign mission trips in these uncertain times. Much of the physical work on the DTC, we had hoped, would be done by mission teams. When the country shut down, Jim worked by himself on the construction for almost 3 months. Once the country started to open up and some restrictions were lifted, the mission hired local laborers to help, but this was costly and not in our original budget. Helping hands and hearts came to the rescue!!! We were blessed to host CAF Team in the winter of 2020; they have such a heart for evangelism outreach. And in the summer of 2021, Crossroads Community Church sent their annual team, God's perfect timing and an answer to our fervent prayers! The CCC team held VBS ministries for our "campo" kids, who had not had any special activities since before the pandemic. This team worked so hard in the DTC construction project, and they truly have hearts to serve however and whenever needed. We will share more details in our annual newsletter, but here are some of our favorite photos from these STV Teams in ministry. We need you! GREATER OPPORTUNITIES to serve await you... Will you answer the call? *"Here am I, Lord, send me!" Isaiah 6:8*



*"For we are all fellow workers, laborers together, with and for God ... 1 Corinthians 3:9*



### **GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH THE LOST:**

Most of you know our dear brother, Kerry Kurz, also a board member of STV. He has such a heart for missions and to see lost souls won for Jesus. We were so blessed for his visit in May, and he jumped right in, hands to the plow! And as you are reading this update, Kerry is leaving to answer the call of missions to the Amazon jungle! He will be ministering in the river villages of Suriname, and preaching in the annual mission conference to the Trio and Wayana Indians. Please pray for Kerry as he is *SHARING THE VISION* in the Amazon.

*"How beautiful are the feet of those that preach the Good News. Romans 10:15*



### **GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO TEACH THE CHILDREN:**

The beautiful property of Hacienda Esperanza offers other local missions a place for their special activities and retreats. Many of you will recognize Eddy & Carrie Ramos, who served with STV for almost three years. They are now full-time missionaries, founders of Hope & Joy Ministries, serving the children in the poor "barrio" of Monte Adentro in Santiago. It brings us such joy to know that these youth are being taught in the ways of the Lord, and to then take the hope of Jesus to their families and neighbors. They brought hope & joy to the Hacienda as they celebrated their Christmas retreat and June activity with worship, Bible teaching, fun and games, and lots of yummy treats.

*"Train up a child in the way that he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*





## GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY:

In late spring, our ICC Associate Pastor and his wife, Paulo and Erlandia Barbosa, sold their apartment in the city and purchased a corner piece of land at Hacienda Esperanza. They are currently building a small home and hope to move in by spring. Paulo works full time as a surgical assistant in the HOMMS hospital in Santiago, but still devotes much time to the work of the Lord. He has such a shepherd's heart and God has done a beautiful work in their lives. They love to serve others and have giving hearts. They are a blessing to us and to our ICC church family. Our campo community have nicknamed him: Dr. Paulo!

*"The giving soul is a source of blessing and shall be enriched; and he who refreshes others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25*



## GREATEST IS YET TO COME!!!

We are so blessed to be able to continue with the vision of building the Discipleship Training Center (DTC). It has not been easy, but God has shown grace in these turbulent times. We had already broken ground in late summer of 2019, and then traveled in the fall to raise funds toward the DTC Matching Fund. Praise God that through the generous donations of so many of you, STV was able to meet the goal set for the Matching Fund by the deadline of February 28, 2020. We were in full-on construction mode when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Since then, building material prices have increased dramatically and our original construction budget is "out the window" ... The price of steel rises almost weekly. A report just came out that building material costs here in the Dominican Republic increased 32% and they predict it will continue to rise. Good News...GREAT NEWS! We are not discouraged! God continues to provide in so many ways. He has been faithful to give us wisdom and direction, guiding our decisions, showing us His grace and favor time and again.

*"Taking heed, therefore, to the ministry which we have received of the Lord, that we may fulfill it." Colossians 4:17*





We were able to put a roof over the second floor and construct two bathrooms on this second level. We hope to begin holding church services here at Hacienda Esperanza in October! Once again, God provided miraculously for this change from our original plan of finishing the first level completely. This allows us to begin using the building for ministry now, even as we are working toward completing the first floor, which is the actual DTC (Discipleship Training Center). The concrete floor of the first level is finished, excavation for the septic and clearing around the center was completed last week, the windows and doors were installed this week, and we are finishing the installation of the gutters for the water collection system tomorrow! The next stages of construction are: build interior walls, install drywall, prime and paint the interior and exterior walls, increase the 100-amp service currently at the warehouse to a 200-amp, so that we can install the 100-amp service for the DTC building, install the electrical wiring, and plumbing. *(Lord willing, if the funds are available to do so.)* What a testimony it will be if we can complete the first level and begin teaching and training students in the fall of 2022! We need helping hands for interior and exterior painting, metal stud and dry wall construction, interior plumbing, electrical work, 3000 square feet of ceramic tile to install, and more!

*"May the gracious favor of the Lord rest upon us and establish the work of our hands, yes, confirm the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17*





We are so grateful to all of you who have been a part of this ministry. Thank you for your prayers for us to walk in health, for God's provision, for fruitful ministry, for wisdom, and open doors to share the Good News. Thank you for your gifts of financial support, generous donations of airfare miles, Bibles, evangelistic literature, supplies, and notes of encouragement; for all these have allowed us to continue to carry out His calling in this ministry for the past 25 years. We appreciate those of you that have personally come on short-term mission trips to partner with STV, putting your own hands, feet, and hearts to His service. God's faithfulness has been exemplified through each of you. Thank you all for *Sharing The Vision* with us. And together, we will see the Discipleship Training Center become a reality. Greater things are still to be done and the *GREATEST IS YET TO COME! How GREAT is our God!*

*John 1:16 "For of His fullness we have all received: grace upon grace, blessing upon blessing, favor upon favor, and gift heaped upon gift."*

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## PRAISES

- Praise God for the salvations, baptisms, and transformed lives we have seen this past year.
- ICC members have grown in their faith, stepped out of their comfort zones, and witnessed the faithfulness of God to keep them and their church through the struggles of this pandemic.
- Jim injured his lower back twice in the past year in the construction project: two trips to the ER and a not-so positive diagnosis. He was in severe pain. PRAISE GOD... He has been completely healed!
- I praise God for this update, far from perfect, but completed! Jim does the newsletters, and I proofread and finish. But he has had no spare time, and I had never used this program.

## PRAYER NEEDS

- Pray that God will continue to magnify Himself in and through all we do and for others to experience His light and love as we are Sharing The Vision on this island.
- Pray for continued protection over all those that are working in the construction project of the DTC, and for us as we travel in this country.
- Pray for God's provision to supply all of the needs of the ministry, and the funds to complete the Discipleship Training Center.
- Pray for our evangelistic efforts to bear fruit, the fruit of salvation;
- Pray for the Lord to send us helping hands in the ministry: Interns, workers, someone to help with the website, and short-term mission teams.



*Greetings, from our home at Hacienda Esperanza! We are so thankful for the strength and joy that God has given us, for good health, for the fellowship of the saints, and for the wonderful blessings of the ministry. FAMILY NEWS: We are so blessed that our children are seeking the Lord, that they are all healthy, and our quiver is still growing! We are expecting our 15th grandchild next week! We are excited for a short stateside trip that is planned over Thanksgiving, Lord willing. It's been two years since we have seen our Indiana family, which includes my parents, two of our children, and more than half of our precious grandchildren! We have so much to be thankful for, and in these uncertain and turbulent times, we rest in the Lord's peace, in the assured hope of His coming, and in the light of eternity! THE GREATEST IS TRULY YET TO COME, and His name is JESUS! What a day that will be!*

*Sharing The Vision, Jim and Teresa*

*Would you consider SHARING THE VISION in your giving to missions?*

*You can click the "DONATE " button below and make a tax-deductible donation on the STV website.*

*You can send a check payable to Sharing The Vision, and mail to:  
Sharing The Vision, P.O. Box 110007, Bradenton, FL. 34211*

*We invite you to prayerfully consider becoming a monthly support partner.  
Please contact us if you have any questions or comments: [sharingthevision@hotmail.com](mailto:sharingthevision@hotmail.com)*

*"For the ministry of this offering not only is supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12*



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