

## Bammel World Missions News – 2019 First Quarter

### Costa Rica

What do you do when your church is so blessed with growth that it keeps outgrowing its space?

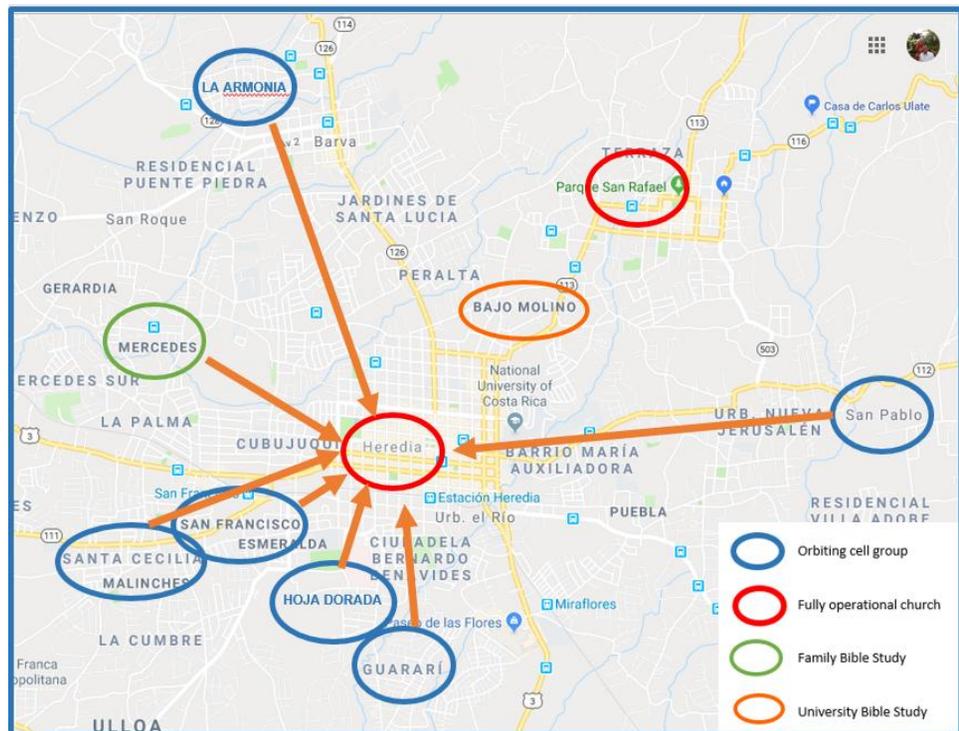
- 8 years ago: 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service in the evening. Didn't work. Everybody preferred Sunday morning.
- 6 year ago: elimination of Sunday School classrooms to expand seating capacity of the auditorium .
- 4 years ago: second partition wall torn down. Preteen Sunday School moved to a nearby park.
- Potential strategy:  
Add a second floor for Sunday School classes. City government denied construction permits, growth would be limited by the size of the enlarged the auditorium, and the cost for the project is too high.
- Recently considered but not implemented:  
Sell the present building. Find a facility that could be rented for only four hours each Sunday.

### **And now:**

Since there are seven orbiting cell groups that were started back in August 2018, the local leadership decided that instead of growing within the central church building, the orbiting cell groups would be encouraged to become churches on their own and grow from the population in their respective areas.

Two of these groups will soon be in position to operate as independent churches in their communities. The other five need more time, but will eventually become churches on their own.

One of the advantages of this pattern of growth is that new areas in the surroundings of Heredia are being evangelized, and the message is already being transmitted to more people through the existing cells.



Key to this decision is the fact that the Lord has blessed the church in Heredia during the last ten years with the development of very fine leadership resources. There are several brothers and sisters who have become excellent preachers and teachers and feel that their gifts could be better utilized if more opportunities were made available to them.

In conclusion, it can be said with great confidence that the church in Heredia is experiencing a healthy transition from centralized growth to an orbiting cells growth pattern that will increase the scope of evangelism in areas around Heredia.

## Baxter March Madness

To our friends in the States, March Madness means a frenzy of basketball. Here at Baxter we have our share of March Madness, except for us, this frenzy is of seminars and mission teams.



During the first week of March a thought-provoking and inspiring self-improvement seminar was taught by brother Evertt Huffard on this year's theme "The Year to Redefine Christian Leadership."

This year's first short-term mission group, a first-time-group from Madison, Alabama, assembled food bags for a local congregation, put on a VBS, built two houses for local brothers and sisters in Christ, and encouraged our students.

Baxter also hosted two groups which came primarily to work with Breaking Chains. They did an excellent job building houses, feeding the hungry, and doing some much-needed projects around campus.

To cap off the month, Mary Nelson with Mission Bible Class arrived from New Zealand to teach our Baxter women the best methods for sharing the Word of God with children of all ages. After the seminar for our students, she hosted a workshop on campus with 192 women from 29 congregations in attendance.

## Croatia and Serbia

*"Over 20+ years have gone by now, and today both Croatia and Serbia are living in peace, but there is still a lot of "bad blood" on both sides. Many of the consequences of war are still evident between the people in these areas today."*

This excerpt from a recent EEM newsletter highlights the dramatic impact of what their article calls an "Unlikely Friendship".



Drasko Denovic served in the Serbian army, Jura Lazar on an opposing side in the Croatian, in what is considered the bloodiest war in Europe since WWII.

Working together now as brothers in Christ, not as "Unlikely Friends", our two missionaries serve in the Lord's army.



They no longer ". . . wage war as the world does". They rely on the word of God as *"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."* 1 Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV

Drasko writes, **"Jesus is the only one who can give our people peace and in the Balkans where the wars have been, this is a very important message."** And throughout the Balkans, as Jura and Drasko continue distributing Bibles (In Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. To public schools and the army chaplaincy. To a number of minority groups living in their respective countries. To anyone who needs a Bible. To anyone who needs Jesus) they are changing the spiritual life of both nations.

## **Eastern European Missions (EEM)**

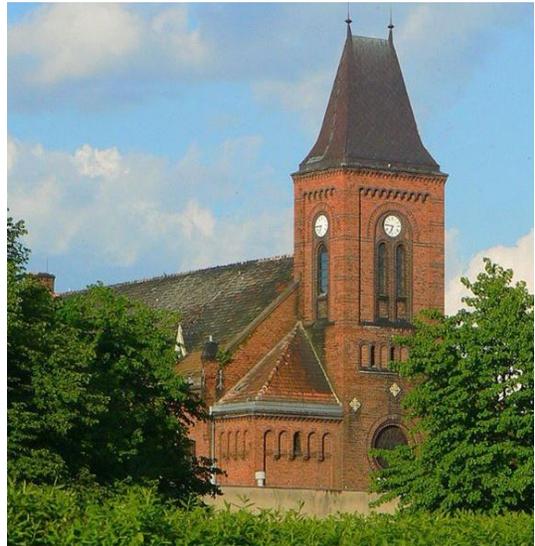
EEM's work partnering with a vast network of organizations to provide Bibles and Bible-based materials (to 30 countries in over 20 languages) includes distribution into a location where the need is perhaps the greatest. They recently received the following from a partner in Poland who is serving in prison ministry.

*Over 120 people have been baptized in two of the largest prisons in Poland. Only a handful had their own Bible.*

*Now, by God's grace, we've received your offer of free Bibles for the rest of the new believers and more!*

Wronki Prison in Poland

***I was in prison, and you came to me.*** Matthew 25:36



## **Mexico**

The Great Cities Mission team, initially assigned just to Alborada continues their expanded role working with the Las Americas church as well. Pictured here celebrating Las Americas' 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.



In Alborada, The team has been working for a while to ensure that there will be leadership after they depart for other ministries.

Elmer has completed training two men to lead the youth ministry.

Pictured here, youth ministers Daniel Segura and Alfredo Lopez are being presented to the church.