



The Servants of the Word

Christmas 2011

David Mijares: A Man with a Heart for God

In Latin American countries it is a custom for parents to give Christian names to their children hoping that one day their children will embody the character of that biblical figure – and so, with such hopes, was David Mijares named.

David was born and raised in Mexico City, the youngest of a family of six children. He met the Lord during his freshman year at the Tecnológico of Monterrey, one of the most prestigious universities in Latin America. Graduating as an Engineer in Computer Systems, he received a noteworthy honor for excellence as one of the highest ranking students in his class. However, at the end of his studies at the university, David was thinking of a better way of using his gifts – he was more interested in preaching about the kingdom of God and seeing others come to know the joy that he had found than in advancing his own career.

The Bible tells us that King David was a man who had a heart for God. He was not a perfect man, but his obedience, docility, and loyalty to God in the end served the purposes that God had for the Jewish people. It was through King David that God chose to establish the city of Jerusalem as the center of worship and peace for all of Israel.



Since his conversion experience in university, our brother David has been the kind of man who, like his biblical namesake King David, strives to understand the heart of God. With an evangelist's heart, he is zealous to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. He is a man gifted not only in bringing people to Christ but in discipling young people in our communities as well.

One of David's most notable qualities is his boundless energy. He is a man who has the ability to carry many things on his shoulders. While serving as one of the elders and trainers in The Servants of Word in our region, he's also a regional coordinator, a local coordinator in Comunidad Jésed in Monterrey, Mexico, and a regional director of the Kairos youth outreach. In the midst of all this, David has time for many people and much more. He composes and translates songs and is currently producing a new CD. He runs conferences for the musicians of our region, organizes



Continued on page 4



Beloved family and friends,

It gives me great pleasure to wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year on behalf of all the brothers of The Servants of the Word!

As I write this short note, the year 2011 is rapidly drawing to a close. At the moment, according to my high-tech watch, 341 days have passed and there are only 24 left in the year. We are in the 49th of 52 weeks. No matter what I do I cannot slow down the march of time or change the inevitability

of a new year being so soon upon us. Where has the year gone?

I recently completed a month-long trip to India. Upon my arrival back in the United States, I went directly to my parents' home to join them and all of my siblings' families for the Thanksgiving celebration – our first together in 26 years. When Thanksgiving Day arrived I was flat on my back with a viral infection I had picked up during my travels. Although physically in the same house I was not able to join the celebration. The day came and went. My siblings, their spouses, and my nieces and nephews came and went. I was there, but both my arrival and presence were non-factors for that day!

The realities we celebrate in this Christmas season are timeless and do not come and go! Jesus, whose birth we commemorate and celebrate, *is* a factor for this day and every day! He, the child born in a manger, is the Word of God made flesh. He came into this world over 2,000 years ago, yet was with God from the beginning of time and rules as King for all ages. He who would die on a cross lives eternally to give life to all who call upon his name! Let the year pass and a new one begin. Let seasons and celebrations come and go. Because of Jesus, we have in our lives him who is our life “yesterday, today, and forever!”

We hope and pray that you and your loved ones have a great Christmas celebration! We also ask that you pray for all of us in The Servants of the Word. This Christmas issue of our newsletter focuses on things “south of the border.” You will read about some of our efforts in Latin America to broaden our reach for the Lord. You will also be introduced to David Mijares, one of the main driving forces behind our work in Latin America. Enjoy reading! ▲

In Christ our Lord,

Ken Noecker

**Jesus, the Word-made-flesh,
lives eternally to give life to all
who call upon his name!**

Servants of the Word Short-Term Households in Honduras, Costa Rica, and Ecuador

As the rain pours on this Sunday afternoon here in San Pedro Sula, I reflect on how quickly the last three months have passed since Luisma Bravo and I arrived in Honduras to start a year-long Servants of the Word temporary household.

Honduras is the site of the first four-month stage of the household. Next, we will go to Costa Rica from January to April 2012, and then finally to Quito, Ecuador, from May to August. In each place we will have a household with the affiliates of the local community and other young men who are interested in our way of life.

This new project, similar to the “mobile house” that our brothers had in Europe last year, aims to bring support to the Kairos work in the communities of the region and to give an opportunity to our affiliates to participate in a brotherhood household. It’s also an initial step toward our desired growth as Servants of the Word in Latin America.

At Home in San Pedro Sula

Our time in the community Fortaleza de Dios (Fortress of God) in Honduras has been a great blessing. Community members here warmly welcomed us and have been providing for all of our needs. We feel at home in the midst of a big family that loves and cares for us.

We live in a spacious and beautiful house about a mile away from one of the main universities, a good setting for our life and mission. In addition to Luis Manuel and myself, five young men make up the core of the house, four of them affiliates. We usually have between one and three guests that come over for a week or two, to stay with us and experience our brotherhood life. So we typically have around 10 men living in the household.



Life with Medical Students

A unique and interesting fact of our house is that four of the young men study medicine, and a fifth studies dentistry. As a result, our life is full of stories, terminology, and books one wouldn’t typically expect in a Servants of the Word house, but rather in a hospital. We even have a model skeleton named “Bernardo” – some say Bernardo is thinking about becoming an affiliate, but I’m not so sure about that.

Service at Home and on the Road

Our time in San Pedro Sula has also been full of great service opportunities, mainly with the university and high school programs of the local community. We have participated in and supported retreats, camps, training courses and prayer meetings – all the while being blessed and impressed by what God is doing in the midst of the youth and community members here in Honduras. Being in San Pedro Sula has also given us the opportunity to visit the community in La Ceiba, a Caribbean coastal city located several hours away. We have also visited a community in Guatemala that received us for two weeks in November. While there, we spent time getting to know community members and participated in a few of their outreach events.

Continued on page 4

David Mijares, continued from page 1

the development of the regional Gap program and even organizes and competes in one of the largest 10km and 5km races in Monterrey. With his free time, he seizes the opportunity to climb the tallest mountains in Mexico. A successful businessman who is a good friend of David's once said, "If you were not in The Servants of the Word, David, I would have hired you years ago to work for me."

David is a man of prayer. He is someone who has a deep intimacy with God. How do we know this? David is a man who speaks often of God. When he is asked to be a guest speaker, he is like a volcano of motivation and inspiration. He speaks what he knows, and he preaches what he lives.

In The Servants of the Word, David is a man highly respected for the wholehearted way he lives out his commitments to the Lord. His leadership is consistently noteworthy. He lives life without hesitation, in a radical, passionate, and surrendered way that inspires many who know him. David is a great blessing to us in The Servants of the Word. He's a strong brother on whom we can rely. And he is a man who has inspired many others to live radically for God.

King David was a man who sought to carry out the mission that God had called him to. Likewise, our David Mijares seeks to be a man of prayer, to be a man faithful in serving the needs of the Christian people today. He is a leader with great vision and is greatly committed to building the kingdom of God. I'm sure the Lord will continue to use David to carry out his purposes! ▲

– Luis Manuel Bravo

Short Term Households, continued from page 3

Approaching a Transition Time

As we approach our Christmas retreat, the close of the year 2011, and our move to Costa Rica, we are thankful for the experiences we've had so far. We look forward to the new adventures that await us in the coming months. Our Servants of the Word temporary household will move southward and continue our mission in the midst of other communities in The Sword of the Spirit. If you want to follow our life in the temporary household, you can check out our Spanish website: www.siervosdelapalabra.org ▲

–Luis Arce



WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP

The Servants of the Word gets its support through the financial earnings of the brothers as well as by donations from our benefactors. Many of our brothers work for sacrificial wages or for no pay at all. Please consider if you can become a financial sponsor of The Servants of the Word. Your prayers and support are appreciated in our work with young people and our community development work.

THE SERVANTS OF THE WORD

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