

Baptist World Alliance Heritage and Identity Commission July 2001 Charlottetown PEI
BRIEF REPORT OF LATIN AMERICA IN COUNCIL MEETINGS JULY 6, 2001
by Dinorah Mendez

I. SPECIAL NEWS.

1. Special Information from Dominican Republic.

A special and creative training program for dominicans missionaries called Plan Macedonia, has been started by pastor Francisco Manolo Martinez Sarita and his wife Mirtha, in Primera Iglesia Bautista of Puerto Plata. First four candidates started the program living for 4 months with the Martinez receiving theological and practical training, they also did missionary work with Martinez supervision. This Church recently also celebrated its 25th anniversary. Four new churches have been started by it, and one more is the result of one of those four. This is a strong missionary Church as it currently has 8 new missions. There is also a college with 600 students supported by the Church.

Another strong Church in this country is the Iglesia Bautista Internacional in Santo Domingo leader in baptisms and numerical growth last year. They mainly work with professionals under leadership of his pastor and his wife Miguel and Kathy Nuñez, both physicians.

Theological Education is provided by the Dominican Baptist Theological Seminary, which is looking for governmental official recognition. Last year, Dr. Justice C. Anderson was teaching History and Homiletics as Guest professor there.

Other relevant events in Dominican Republic have been the congress CENTRIFUGA, a summer activity for teenagers with focus on evangelism, and the Annual Women Congress, with the participation of Amparo de Medina from Cali, Colombia. Dominican Baptists have also celebrated 15 years of Bertha Aquino de Domínguez as the first missionary commissioned by the Dominican Baptist Convention. She has been working in church planting, in religious education in all churches and as professor at the Baptist seminary. Missionaries from the IMB-SBC and the Brazilian Baptist Convention are working with Dominicans Baptists.

(Source: Dr. Pablo Siebenmann, Director of Dominican Baptist Theological Seminary and Missionary of IMB-SBC in Dominican Republic for 28 years)

2. Special News from Mexico.

Last year it was reported a total of 1440 churches with a number of 176 new churches and 6,422 baptisms, as well as 372 missions.

However, the outstanding report from Mexico is that 2001 it has been dedicated by the Mexican Baptist Convention as the year of the Baptist theological education as the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary is celebrating this year its centenary. In 1901 the missionary A. T. Watkins started a Theological School in the Northern part of the country, after struggles especially during Mexican Revolution, the school was re-opened under the current name in 1917 with collaboration of both Northern and Southern Baptist Missionaries and the Mexican Convention. Currently, the Seminary has its quarters in the suburbs of Mexico City, the largest city in the world with a big challenge for the future. The Centennial activities have included trips of the Seminary choir and staff to the cities where the Seminary was working before, celebrating special worship services and leaving commemorative plaques in those places. The last event is planned for October 2001 in the campus of the Seminary.

(Source: Statistics of CNBM and Personal accounts)

II. SOME PROJECTS.

1. History commission of Mexican Baptist Convention (CNBM).

This commission works under the leadership of Dr. David Livingston Montemayor. He reported to CNBM last year, to have some booklets ready to be published by his own familiar publishing editorial. They are especially works about the pastoral work of his father Cosme G. Montemayor. However, some of those booklets are of general interest as: Biography of Tomas Westrup (one of the founders of Baptist Work in Mexico), History of Biblical Society of Mexico, and History of Baptist Seminaries in Mexico.

(Source: Annual Book of Reports of CNMB 2000)

2. Translation of Baptist History Books in progress.

From his work Baptist History (three volumes), published in Spanish by the Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas, Dr. Justice C. Anderson is preparing an English version with the purpose to publish a book about Baptists and other evangelicals in Latin America. He expects to finish this project in two more years.

(Source: Dr. Justice C. Anderson is member of this BH&I Commission and he gave me this information to share in this meeting, he regrets be unable to attend due to other commitments but he sent his regards to the members and attendants to this meeting)

3. Fellowship and Work of Evangelical Historians in Latin America.

During the last Congress CLADE IV organized by the FTL, September 2000 in Quito Ecuador, a Fellowship of Evangelical Historians has been officially established. This fellowship is planning the I International Congress about the History of Protestantism in Latin America and the Caribbean. The preliminary information is:

Place: Universidad Nacional Mayor San Marcos, Lima Perú

Date: September 2002

Topics: Protestantism, Liberalism and Modernity; Protestantism, Tolerance and Religious Freedom; Protestantism and Politic Power in Latin America; Protestantism and Education in Latin America; and Pentecostalism in Historical Perspective.

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(Source: Personal Information)

Thanks for the opportunity to share,

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