

February 2021

Latin America

Johnny & Ivonne Cruz



Dear friend:

There is so much going on, we don't know where to start. The Lord is doing amazing things!

The Summit!

Last year, upon canceling the INSTE National Convention for Honduras due to the pandemic, I (Johnny) had the crazy idea of launching a videoconference in its stead for all of Latin America and Spain, and to feature some of the world's top scholars. It was off the wall crazy. The first thing I imagined was these scholars saying, this guy is nuts. But we went for it. And God was faithful! And the results are incredible. We had an audience of some 7000 people (that's conservative, it was probably twice that amount) from 28 countries. Surprisingly, we only received one negative comment. Most everybody else is saying they want to see it again!

But it gets better than that! Do you know that failures can be tremendous opportunities in God's hand? We hired a top Central American company to do our website and manage the mass mailing, but they blew it really bad. We lost anywhere from 3 to 5 thousand people that tried to access the event (calculate an audience at least twice that amount, just in the pictures there's about ten people for each spot). So, we decided to repeat the summit on the 28th of February! If you know any Spanish speaking Christians, let them know about it! They need to register at cumibin.org.



Other crazy ideas

I guess once you get started with crazy ideas, they have no way of ending. We've got stark, raving mad ideas. For starters, there's churches everywhere asking for the summit to show to their members. We need to structure that to make it as effective as possible. That will have an impact beyond anything we ever dreamt of. Then, there's the idea of making an evangelistic version of the summit for all of Latin America, get some really select speakers, careful scholars, that can do a knock-out job of it. But there's bunches more! We have to keep from running too fast, all of this will take time. Just the summit was a crazy amount of work, though it was worth every minute of it. And we're already working on the 2022 summit. But we feel the Lord is telling us to dream big with all of this.

They that sow with tears

We have spent 30 years establishing INSTE in Honduras. It has been hard work. And yes, we've shed a lot of sweat and tears on the way. And we've made plenty of mistakes. I could write a book on that one. And another one on the disappointments. You don't always get to see the fields once they mature, or to be the one that reaps what has been sown. But once in a while you do. That happened to us the last Saturday of January. We are turning over the directorship of INSTE Honduras to one of the most qualified persons I could think of, Hector Sanabria, who is also on the Latin American executive team. He is the one with a white shirt and khaki pants. This has got to be a dream! And we installed a whole team for INSTE Honduras that day. These leaders are top of the line. God has been good to us!



We really need your prayers for wisdom

One of the reasons I travelled to the US in December was to get the Covid vaccine. But I had to return to Honduras before I could receive it. We need God's wisdom. There're trips we have to make to Spain and Portugal, Brazil and Ecuador. We are working on changes; some really neat opportunities are coming down our way. But every one of these countries is in a terrible shape. In Honduras the pandemic is off the charts, it's almost impossible to get into a hospital if you get a bad case of Covid. There's so, so many opportunities. Please pray for us!

In Jesus' love

Handwritten signature of Bob and Ivonne.