

JOHNNY
& IVONNE
CRUZ

inste.al@gmail.com

Dear friend:

I am writing from the prosperous country of Panama, at the tail end of Central America. A passage in the Psalms nails my feelings perfectly: “Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!” Last night we passed the hotel where we were lodged at many years ago when it all started for us in this country. Back then, Nick, the INSTE international director, Carlos, our director for Costa Rica, and I trekked overland by bus from Costa Rica to Panama. It was absolutely terrible. The air-conditioner on the bus didn’t work, the bathroom was out, the trip seemed like it would never end. That hotel was wretched, like nobody in their right mind would want to stay there. And the meeting that was set up for us was an abject failure. “All kinds of pastors are going to come” they assured us. Nobody came. As we sat on a wall out in the muggy heat, sad and forlorn, a fellow came by and asked what we were doing. “We were supposed to have a meeting with pastors,” we answered. He asked us what the meeting was about, and we answered, “INSTE”. The guy got excited and told us he had been searching for INSTE for a year. That guy, Jorge Zelaya, the searcher, is now our director for this beautiful country and is doing a knock-out job of it. I was riding with him in the car last night as we went by that raunchy hotel as I relived all these memories. Talk about wanting to shout for joy!



And more great shouts of joy

As things are winding up for us in Honduras, we are experiencing a totally different season of life, something extraordinarily beautiful. After serving the church of Honduras for 30 years, we are reaping back at a level we never would have imagined. We have been visiting the churches and associations of pastors that we have served all these years, and they are demonstrating a love and gratitude that is totally amazing! Here’s some pictures from two of the meetings with pastors, but they hardly convey the rich gratitude and dearness these pastors are showing us.

This has got to be a dream!

Out of sheer madness, we invited one of today’s most highly respected theologians, D.A. Carson as a speaker for 2022’s Iberoamerican Influencers’ Summit. He most probably is the most capable New Testament theologian in all of history. There are few, if any, theologians that I admire more. Dr. Carson will be speaking on the Authority and Reliability of Holy Scripture. Exquisite! Michael Licona also answered, one of the top leading experts on Jesus’ resurrection. Can you imagine the impact they will have on thousands of Latin American leaders?

The Last Hurrah

The last Saturday of July was my official farewell from INSTE Honduras (Johnny). Our national team wanted to hold this Convention in a nice hotel, though most people felt that few would show up due to Covid.

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The INSTE team insisted, we went ahead, they really wanted to do something extra special as a farewell for us. We felt we would do good if we got anywhere near to 50 people coming. We were surprised with 140 leaders that came! It was



amazing how they expressed their love and appreciation! There's two pictures for you. And this is only half of it. On the first Saturday of November there will be another National Convention for the northern part of Honduras. One more chance to say good-bye to the people we have served and love deeply.

The Panamanian National Convention

This Panama trip has many rich purposes, one of them being to meet with the country's secretary of education, who was graduating from INSTE. She spoke wonders of our program, and we expect some interesting developments. There's a picture for you, it was impressive, one of the finest National Conventions I have ever been at.



Please help us make this happen!

The Iberoamerican Influencers' Summit is the second greatest opportunity we have to impact the leadership of the church of Latin America (our greatest shot is with the training we do with INSTE). We trust we can reach 50,000 pastors and leaders in February next year, and the chance to make a huge difference in their lives by exposing them to the world's choicest Christian thinkers. By the most conservative estimate, it will cost us \$13,000. That really is an exceptionally small budget for this kind of event. Can we ask you to have a part of the rich impact this will be?

Please pray for us!

We trust the next newsletter you receive from us will be from the US. It is a big and complex move for us. Furthermore, Honduras will hold presidential elections in November, and there is much violence and turmoil expected from the country's Marxist groups. Please pray for us!

In Jesus' love,

Ray + Iwonne

GLOBE INTERNATIONAL
P.O. BOX 3040
PENSACOLA, FL 32516-3040

