



GPA MISSIONS

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Costa Rica Ministry Trip Report

TRIP REPORT | PRAYER AND SUPPORT REQUEST

"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."

Dear Brethren,

This verse describes well how the Lord brought this trip together. It had not been part of the plans of Pastors David and Mike Goforth, nor of my own.

How the Lord Opened the Door

Pastor **David Goforth**, former pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Riverview, FL, and now pastor of Grace Baptist Church in West Columbia, SC, had planned a preaching trip to India with his brother, Pastor **Mike Goforth**, who pastors a church in Rochester Hills, MI. When Pastor David applied for his visa, he was told that he could enter the country *"as long as he didn't teach on anything having to do with religion."* That immediately closed the door for their trip to India. Soon afterward, Missionary **Alex Araya** invited him to Costa Rica. Pastor David accepted, having been unable to accept several earlier invitations from Alex.

Alex then contacted me to ask whether I could come to Costa Rica and interpret the four messages planned for the conference at the First Baptist Church of Coronado, where Pastor David would be preaching. Pastor David and I have been good friends for many years. While he was pastor at Providence, he made at least four trips to Costa Rica with me, including one project in which a group from Providence built two cabins for the Coronado Camp.

I explained to Alex that, if God wanted me to go, He would need to provide the airfare, which would cost between **\$800 and \$1,000**. We left the matter in the Lord's hands. Shortly afterward, someone at church walked up to me and wrote a check for **\$1,500** for the trip. Through that provision, God's direction was clear.

The August 6-11 Visit

The quick trip to Costa Rica from **August 6 through 11** was both busy and blessed. Our schedule began with a Friday night service at the First Fundamental Baptist Church of Coronado. Pastor David preached, and Pastor Mike shared a testimony about his service for the Lord in upstate Michigan.

On Saturday, we traveled to the Japanese Gardens of Cartago for a special activity with the ladies of the church in honor of Mother's Day, observed on **August 15 in Costa Rica**. We then returned to the church for coffee, Bible games related to Mother's Day, and a special message from Pastor Goforth. The women of the Coronado church were greatly blessed.

Sunday's services were held at the Coronado Camp in Sacramento, high in the mountains overlooking the Central Valley and the capital city of San José. The entire church gathered for two wonderful services with dinner between them. Special music was provided by a ladies' group, a men's group, and the First Baptist Church choir.

A heartfelt presentation was made to Pastor Goforth in recognition of his support for the two camp cabins, both through funding and through the work completed by a group from Providence Baptist Church under his direction during his ten years as pastor there. Pastor Goforth and I worked very well together as he preached and I interpreted the challenging messages God had laid upon his heart.

Bro. Alex later told me that our visit had truly been ordained by God and that the church had been stirred with renewed energy to serve the Lord. His words were, *"We really needed that."* This was a Macedonian call. Glory to God!

GPA Camp Meeting Coming Up

Lord willing, from **September 14 through 19**, we will be in Nottingham, PA, for the annual GPA Camp Meeting. National missionaries **Guillermo Rojas** of Costa Rica, **Alfredo Pech** of Mexico, and **Luis Corrales** of Venezuela will be with me during this special week. In addition to nightly preaching by several special speakers, the morning schedule will include sessions designed to help our GPA missionaries.



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I am scheduled to speak on the topic, *"How we can better help the national missionaries through short-term mission trips."* I may also invite Bros. Pech, Corrales, and Rojas to participate in a panel discussion, using their input to broaden the scope of the session.

Deputation Work to Follow

After the conference, we plan to spend a week visiting churches in the Tampa area with Bros. Pech and Corrales. Shortly afterward, I expect to meet Bro. Alex Araya in West Virginia around mid-October for a total of six appointments in the Huntington-Charleston area. I will then return to Florida for several more scheduled meetings around Tampa and Naples.

Please pray that all goes well and that much will be accomplished for God's glory and for the benefit of Bro. Alex and his ministry in Costa Rica.

Personal Prayer and Support Request

Please pray that the Lord will provide the **\$800 in airfare** needed for our trip to Pennsylvania. If Nancy is unable to make the trip with me, the need will be **\$400**. She loves attending the GPA Camp Meeting each year, and many others and I would be glad to have Nancy with us during this special event.

A Personal Blessing

Nancy and I celebrated our **57th anniversary on August 16**. God is, and has always been, so good.

Thank you for your many prayers and for your faithful support of our ministry.

ONLINE GIVING

If the Lord leads you to help with the airfare for the Pennsylvania trip, you may give online through PayPal.

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Bro Carl GPA

Luke 19:10